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RETURN TO
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JEFFERSON, IOWA

Cavalcade of a Century

GREENE COUNTY Ia.

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JEFFERSON, IOWA

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Cavalcade of a Century

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Cavalcade of a century.
Jefferson, Iowa, Greene County
Centennial Committee, 1954.

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.G66C4 Greene County, Iowa.
Cavalcade of a century.
Jefferson, Iowa, Greene County
Centennial Committee, 1951.

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1. Title

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

OFFICIAL PROGRAM

Cavalcade of a Century

presented by

GREENE COUNTY CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

August 2nd through 6th — Greene County Fair Grounds
8:15 P.M. — Jefferson, Iowa

A Mammoth Historical Pageant-Spectacle
Staged and Directed by the John B. Rogers Producing Company
Fostoria, Ohio

*

THE ORIGIN OF GREENE COUNTY

GREENE COUNTY, named after General Nathaniel Greene, one of the truly great heroes of the Revolution, was tardily opened to settlement owing to the fact that it lies just outside a section into which the tide of immigration poured a score of years before the praises of the real 'corn belt' had been sung. Northwestern Iowa, really the garden of the state, was very little in the public eye until pretty well along in the fifties, when the Eastern part of the state was boasting of its age.

Originally the county territory was annexed to Dallas and prior to that to Polk. Its limits were established as they now exist in 1851, but it was comparatively unpopulated at that time. In fact until 1849, it was entirely occupied by the Indians. Truman Davis, the first white settler of the county, came during that year and settled where the village of Rippey is now located. To himself and family are due the credit of opening up this good county as a home for the white race, an occupancy that required unquestioned nerve accompanied by a willingness to endure all the trials incident to pioneer life.

These early day settlers needed no instruction along pioneering lines. They realized, to the full, privations that today would be deemed unendurable. A trackless wilderness, remote neighbors, wild beasts, fifty miles to the nearest post office, no base of household supplies, no bridges across streams, oftentimes obliged to go from seventy to one hundred miles for provisions; surely, in the face of all these and many other obstacles, there was nothing especially alluring in the life they lived. But resolutely and heroically they 'stayed by the stuff' and by self-denial and industry made these prairies a delightful place in which to live.

Published at Jefferson, Iowa, August, 1954
Compiled by Greene County Centennial Committee

Presented by R. A. Morris, Co. Supt. 1954.

Our Thanks to You

THE MEMBERS of the Greene County Centennial Committee wish to extend a hearty welcome to all who have come to observe this important occasion.

As an organization begins to undertake the preparation of a historical program book for a centennial celebration and to fittingly record the deeds of those who had a part in the founding and development of Greene County, nothing is more important than the co-operation of all its members in accepting certain responsibilities. Of almost equal importance is the willingness of friends to lend assistance in giving information and photographs.

When the book is published and distributed the two little words, "Thank you," sound inadequate.

May we express heartfelt appreciation to every person, group, and organization who have given generously of their time, effort, and ingenuity, that the one hundredth anniversary of our beloved county might be so fittingly celebrated.

To name each deserving person is an impossibility, but each will have the satisfaction of realizing that a measure of success is his. Only through many people working together unselfishly and in harmony could such a glorious celebration be accomplished. Such has been the reason not only for an enjoyable centennial, but also the gracious and abundant living in Greene County down through the years.

The committee is particularly indebted to Mrs. O. G. Clause, Mrs. Dale Harding, and their committee who gave much time in preparation in procuring the authentic information used in our brief history. Hours have been spent in writing, collecting, and editing the copy that has gone into this production. The history of many townships has been compiled by a representative member of that community.

Remembering all this, the Greene County Centennial Committee presents this book to tell something of the past and the present of Greene County, and let you imagine its progress and prosperity in the future.

Thank you,

GREENE COUNTY CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

THE OFFICERS of the Greene County Fair Association wish to take this opportunity to extend their thanks to the Greene County Centennial Committee for playing a very important part in the organization of the Greene County Centennial for 1954.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to this committee, made up of citizens throughout the county, for the assistance they have given us in making the Greene County Fair a better fair this year through the Greene County Centennial.

Sincerely yours,

GREENE COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION
R. D. CLAUSE, *President*

977.27
G366 Ct.

GREENE COUNTY CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

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Jefferson: Mrs. O. G. Clause
Fred Morain
Mel Shanda
Keith Richardson
Leon Wallin
Grand Junction:
Winston Young
Bob Clause
Brandon Cox
David Schreur
Bagley: Mrs. William Wallace
Paton: Fred Fillman, Jr.
Churdan: Bruce Harriott
Mrs. Everett Hawn
Rippey: Jake Peters

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Chairman, Mel Shanda

Underwriting Committee

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Joe Harper
Mel Shanda
Forrest Brown
Paul Mears
Ray Cudahy
Frank Gilmore
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Rippey: Hugo Norgren
Scranton: Stan Neary
Churdan: Jim Minnehan
Paton: Fulton Taylor

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Co-Chairman, Billy Harding
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Grant: Mrs. Bess Thompson
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Harry Richardson
Willow: Mrs. Tom O'Brien
Greenbrier:
Mrs. Gilbert Berry
Franklin:
Mrs. Lura Thompson
Washington: Mrs. Max Pett
Cedar: Mary Connelly
Highland: Joe Hunt
Dawson: Fred Bauer
Paton: Mr. McWilliams, Wahl
Kendrick: Mrs. Lura Garland
Bristol: Mrs. Flory West
Hardin: Mrs. A. F. Brown
Junction: Jack Watts
Scranton: Mrs. V. McCarville

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Beta Sigma Phi Sorority

Concessions Committee

Fair Association

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Advance Ticket Committee

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Jack Cain
Stan Neary
Keith Bauer
Forrest Beecher

Queen Contest Committee

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Dave Harris
Frank Tucker
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Chairman, Fred Morain

Promotional Committee

Chairman, Bill Watt

SPECTACLE DIVISION

Chairman, Mrs. Bill Wallace

Cast Committee

Chairman, Mrs. W. Heath
Mrs. Kearney

Scenario and Title Committee

Chairman, O. G. Clause
Retson Morris
Florence Huffman

Properties Committee

Fair Association

Costume and Makeup Commitee

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Evelyn Johnston

Construction Committee

Chairman, Verne Johnson
Tom Sanderson
Forrest Brown
Merle West

SPECIAL EVENTS DIVISION

Parade Committee

Chairman, Bruce Harriott
Mrs. Merle Hoyle
John Fey
Paul Bardole
Clyde Slininger
Mrs. Mildred Karber
Don Knapper
Jean Wiggins
Mrs. Glawe
Robert Leland

Historical Window Committee

Jefferson Chamber of
Commerce
Darwin Moore
Mick Finn
Harry Nell
Harold Anderson
Bill Hutchinson

Fireworks Committee

Chairman, Delmar Van Horn
Meredith Shriver
Kenny Lynch
Ernie Sanderson
Bill Griener
Jack Hunter

HOSPITALITY DIVISION

Traffic Safety Committee

Chairman, Mick Parr

Special Events Days

SUNDAY: Religious Day
MONDAY: Entry Day
TUESDAY: Afternoon Parade and Judging
WEDNESDAY: Judging
THURSDAY: Open Class Fat Steer and Barrow Show

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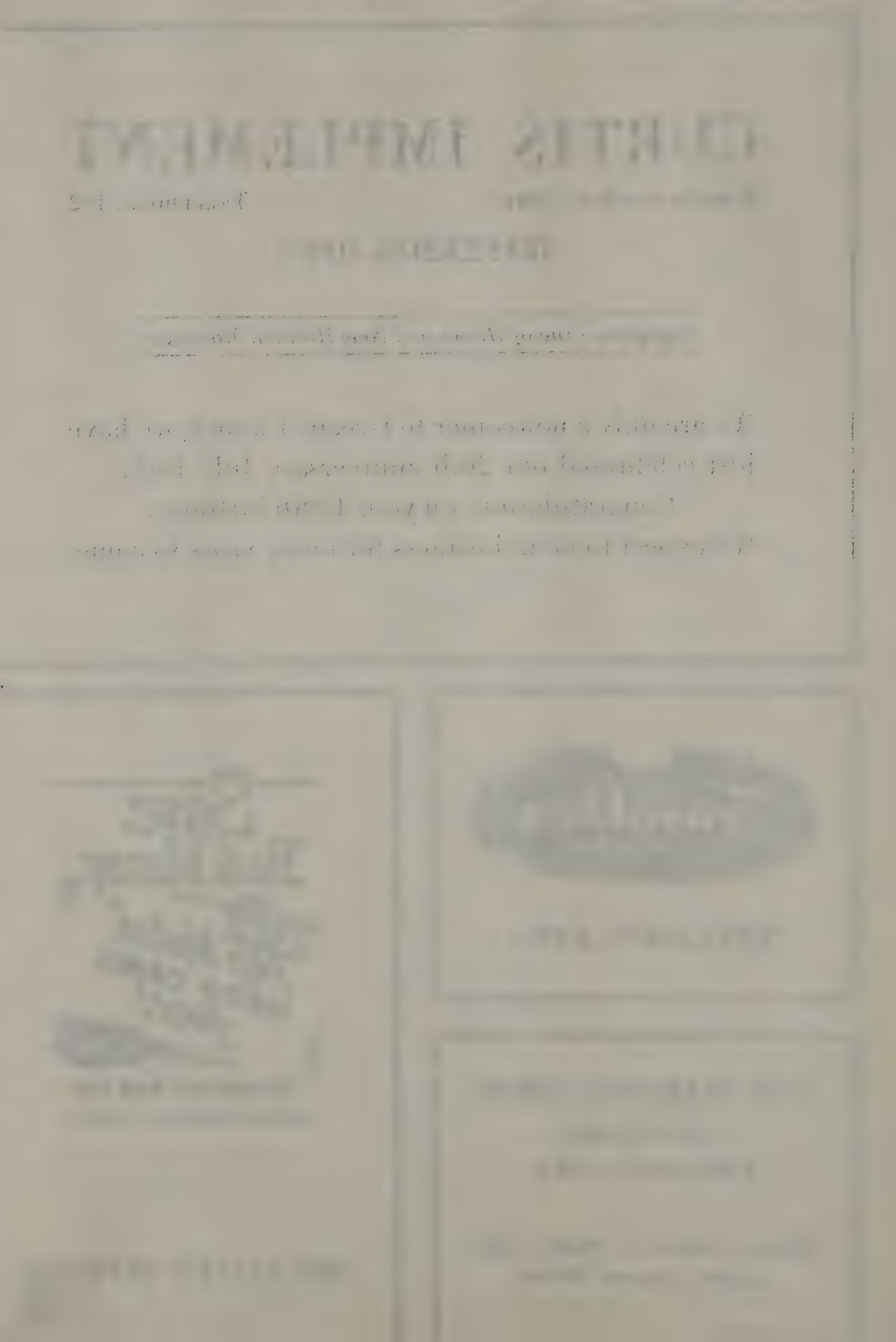

Churdan's First Brass Band, about 1887; taken behind old school house (present location).

Churdan Public School, 1912; built in 1885.

Old Office of The Churdan Reporter.

South Side of Churdan Main Street.

The Jefferson Bee

Established in 1866

The Jefferson Herald

Established in 1895

Serving Greene County
for nearly a century

Watch for the *Bee* and *Herald's* big Centennial Edition to be published this fall—100 years to the month after the founding of Jefferson and Greene County.

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JEFFERSON CREAMERY
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GLIMPSES OF BRISTOL TOWNSHIP

BRISTOL TOWNSHIP was surveyed and divided into sections by Samuel T. Caldwell beginning April 21, 1853, and finished April 29, 1853. No settlers were reported at this time and the township was organized in 1871.

From this section of prairie, half covered with water and snakes, the early settlers through their efforts of hard work, courage, and grim determination and their ability to visualize a future for their land, turned it into a land of beauty and plenty. It is now filled with comfortable farm homes surrounded by fields of grain and livestock of the highest quality, and all-weather roads leading to all directions.

The first and only railroad to cross Bristol was the Des Moines & North Western, now the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul. It is a north and south line connecting Des Moines and Spirit Lake. It was built as a narrow gauge line by the Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific Railroad and operated by them for about eight years. It was then purchased by F. M. Hubbell, of Des Moines, and Greenville M. Dodge, of New York city. It was operated by Hubbell for nine years, during which time it was made a standard gauge and all its appointments greatly improved. It then became part of the Milwaukee system. Bristol has seven miles of this railroad. For years this property was assessed at $1,200 a mile. Through the years it has greatly increased in value, running both freight and passenger trains, until last year when all passenger trains were discontinued.

After the railroad was built a station was laid out in 1884, located about four miles northwest of Jefferson. It was named Forbes, but was more commonly known as 'Pig Town' as it was a loading center for the farmers in shipping their stock, but the little station was a failure as the land surrounding it was too wet and muddy for hauling loads.

About two years later a new site was chosen nearer the center of the township. The new site was named Farlin in honor of Mr. McFarlin, a prominent grain buyer of Des Moines. The growth of the little village was slow and has never grown beyond the village state —it has never been incorporated but is under the regular township government, with the trustees looking after its interest. It has had a number of stores, general stores selling dry goods, hardware, and groceries. The post office has always been in one of the stores. For some years Farlin had a bank—in fact it was important enough for a bank robbery February 19, 1925. Farlin also boasted two grain elevators, a nice two-room school house built in 1898, and two churches.

The Christian Church, after holding meetings for two weeks in a school house west of Farlin in the winter of 1890, saw the need of a church building. The contract was let and on June 28, 1891, the building was finished. The church celebrated its Golden Anniversary June 29, 1941.

The Baptist Church was organized October 26, 1890, by the Rev. L. A. Lovelace and in less than a year, August 23, 1891, the new church was completed.

On March 20, 1894, a co-operative creamery association was organized. It started under the brightest of prospects; a large building was erected and filled with the most modern machinery. The day of the dedication was one great day in the history of Farlin, but after three years the creamery went out of business.

One of the show places of Greene County is located one and one-half miles southwest of Farlin: The Greene County Home for the less fortunate people. It is situated on 240 acres of excellent land. More than half a century ago a frame house was built which was neither large enough, nor convenient, and not suited to the purpose for which it was used, yet for many years it served as a home for from twenty to thirty people who were neither comfortable nor contented. Finally, at the election in 1904, it was voted to expend $10,000 for a new brick building large enough for the needs of the county for years to come. The building was completed and occupied during the summer of 1906 and is now equipped with all modern conveniences. It is a place the entire county can be well proud of maintaining. It has pay patients as well as county patients. The stock barns are completely modern and as one drives between the rows of evergreen trees to the buildings the beauty of it strikes one that this is indeed a home.

MYRTLE WEST

George West, who is 93 years of age, and his sister, Mrs. Ophelia Stream, who is 98. Mr. West came to Bristol Township in 1870 from Clayton County, Iowa, and she came a few years later. After her marriage they started farming north of Farlin, and lived there until their family was grown. They are probably the oldest living settlers of Bristol Township.

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100 YEARS of steady growth . . . that's the history of Greene County. It is a history to be proud of . . . and Reddy Kilowatt is happy to congratulate Greene County citizens on the record which their town has made.

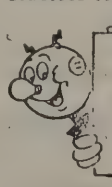
Reddy has piled up a number of records himself over a comparatively short space of time. The Company was organized Wednesday, February 15, 1893. The first lights were turned on Wednesday, February 14, 1894, and consisted of four circuits, first for arc lights in stores, second for arc lights on streets, third for incandescent lights in stores, and fourth for incandescent lights in residences. These lights burned only during the evening. It was after January 1, 1900, before all night service was available.

IN THE HOME . . . Reddy has become the indispensable assistant. No longer do you cook over hot coal or wood stoves . . . heat water in kettles for personal use or for household needs. Reddy's your faithful, quick helper who assists with the cooking, laundry, cleaning, ironing, sewing. He gives the family adequate lighting for every activity. Reddy gives you the equivalent of 30 hard and willing workers the minute he goes to work for you!

IN BUSINESS . . . today, electricity has been playing and will continue to maintain a leading role in making office work easier. Tedious and routine jobs are being taken over by electric machines.

ON THE FARM . . . Reddy's called the farmer's favorite "wired hand." Indoors and out, he saves back-breaking labor. He increases the productivity of the farm. He's always "reddy" to help.

Reddy looks forward to years in which he will see an even bigger and better Greene County . . . years in which he will always be your helper to better electric living.



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We have grown from the Old to the New
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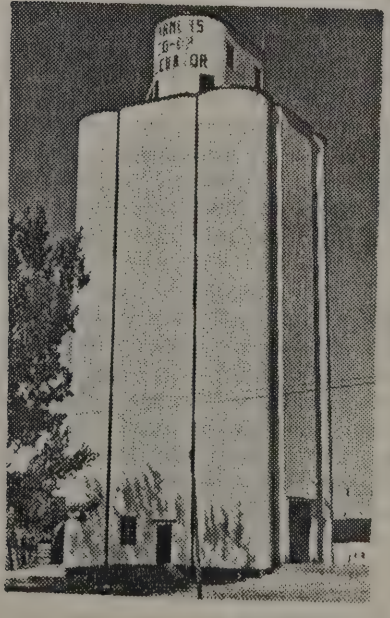

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CEDAR TOWNSHIP—"The Garden Spot of the World"

EARLY in 1852 Loftus Gray, of Chicago, married Mary Fitzpatrick, of Waukegan, Illinois. The next day they, in the company of her five-year-old sister, Catherine, left for the West. They had a good team and a brand new covered wagon packed with all of their worldly goods. The weather was fine and all went well until a night or two after they had forded the Mississippi River when one of their horses disappeared, either strayed or stolen. They camped there for some time—searched the country over—decided the horse had been stolen so he bought another one and came on west. The next long rest they had was at Des Moines where they camped for a month on what is now Capitol Hill while Mr. Gray looked for the ideal place to live and was not suited. The next stop was on the banks of the classic Cedar Creek, Cedar Township, Greene County, Iowa, "The Garden Spot of the World in 1852."

He built a cabin about a quarter of a mile east of the creek beside a sulphur spring, which was what induced him to sign for the quarter section. About two years later his wife's father, Miles Fitzpatrick, came looking for the Westerners and to take his little daughter home. He was delighted with the country and bought land. The next spring he and his wife and three grown sons and four daughters came to make their home—"in the Garden Spot of the World in 1854." The timber was very heavy along the east side of the creek and made a grand shelter. Mr. Fitzpatrick told one of the men who came looking for land later to be sure and buy on the east side of the creek for there was no shelter on the west side.

The first tragedy occurred two or three winters later. Two men started on horseback from Fort Dodge to Lake City and got lost in a storm. One of the men was not strong and died of exposure after he got mired in a ravine about a mile west of the Fitzpatrick home "where there was no shelter." The other man's horse broke its leg and he shot it. Then he wandered around all night. In the morning he found the creek and saw where the Fitzpatrick boys had cut holes in the ice to water their horses and cattle and followed their tracks to the house. It was a bad storm and they had canvassed the country from Jefferson to Lake City before they found twelve men for inquest duty. They buried the man nearby but his companion was not satisfied. He said he was sure his friend had money with him. He had. When his people came from the eastern part of the state they found his money belt on him and it contained several hundred dollars. Cedar is an honest place.

For several years there was plenty of wild game, both animals and birds, but there never was but one buffalo seen in Cedar Township. One bright spring morning two or three years after the first settlers came, Mrs. Fitzpatrick strolled out on the prairie to see the cattle and saw a big buffalo grazing with the herd. When she went back and told about it that was the last farm work for one of the boys that day. Patrick unhitched the team, took one to the barn, got the shotgun, mounted the other horse and took after the buffalo. As he went down toward Coon River every man who had a horse, whether he had a gun or not, joined in the chase. They caught up with the buffalo in Kendrick Township. They shot it, dressed it, and each took some of the meat home.

Mr. Fitzpatrick set up a sawmill as soon as he could buy the equipment and sawed his own trees to build a home. He built quite a large eight-room house, shingled in cedar. It looked so good to him that he built a large barn and shingled it also in cedar wood. It came in handy for they were the only ones on the stage line between Boone and Yankton that could house a driver and two teams all of the time. The stage line made only one stop between Jefferson and Lake City.

Mr. Fitzpatrick and his sons built the first school house in the township in 1859 or 1860. Before that the children used to go to school down in Kendrick Township near Short Branch. The name of the first teacher seems to be forgotten but the second teacher was Josephine Rhodes, of Rippey, and later she married Patrick Fitzpatrick.

Along about this time people began coming in for land. The Mackeys and Gormallys and M. Regans, Caseys and Careys and Collinses and many others came from Canada; Walkers from Wisconsin, Sureys from Jones County, Nesbits from Des Moines, Gaffneys from Jackson County, Ritchies and Maulsbys from Indiana. The early settlers were not lonesome after that. Mrs. Ann Hardy brought her family from Canada and started a small store on the banks of the Cedar just west of the Fitzpatrick house. It was a boon to the people for it saved many trips to Jefferson.

The first and only church in Cedar was built on a ten-acre lot that Mr. Fitzpatrick gave to the pioneers for a church and graveyard in 1872. The builder was Mr. Izaac Ritchie who had shortly before moved in from Indiana. It was mostly built of native timber and was named St. Patrick's. It was replaced by a brick structure in 1915 and that one was destroyed by fire in 1919, and was rebuilt in 1920 and is the only church in the township. It is located about a mile and a half southeast of the location of the first home.

Mr. Jeramiah Mackey was the first one buried in the new cemetery. He passed away in May, 1873.

If the pioneers complained much it never got on the records. One of the greatest drawbacks was distant trading places and church. The housekeeper aimed to go to Des Moines twice in the year. In the spring they took frozen meat—just a load of frozen pork and vegetables that they would not need, and in the fall they sold what firkins of butter they packed when it started to cool off at night. On one trip to Des Moines a family brought home a real lamp and a whole gallon of kerosene to last until the next trip. They always had plenty of candles and soap that they made themselves. They also tapped the maple trees and made syrup.

Mr. Fitzpatrick had learned the carpentry trade when he was a boy in Ireland and he made all kinds of cupboards, tables, and chairs. Many of the distant relatives still have some of these pieces. They are all put together with pegs. He passed away in 1875.

The Indians never bothered the people of Cedar Township. There was quite a scare at one time and many of the families of the neighboring township got together for protection, but the first settlers of Cedar never left their homes in "The Garden Spot of the World."

MARY CONNELLY

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Here and There in DAWSON TOWNSHIP History

Dawson Township is located in the northern part of Greene County and in the early days was part of Hardin. On September 2, 1872, the Board of Supervisors of Greene County, at a lawful meeting, set up a Congressional township, separate from Hardin, and made a civil township which was to be called Dawson. With this division the County Auditor, Mr. McDuffy, appointed J. H. Dawson as commissioner to organize the same; the first election was to be held in the school house November 5, 1872. Three trustees, one assessor, one clerk, two justices, and two constables were to be elected. On October 26, 1872, the first meeting ever held in the township was called to order to form a ticket, with A. B. Crow acting as chairman, and the following were elected as trustees: D. M. Ferguson, G. F. Dawson, and A. C. Wells (clerk).

The first resident was J. H. Dawson for whom the township was named. He settled on what is now the Southeast Quarter of Section 16. This piece of land had been granted to the State of Iowa for school purposes in 1845 and was later transferred to John Leech in 1868 for $668. However, Mr. Leech never occupied it and in a short time it was sold to Mr. Dawson who settled on it and built the first home in the township.

With no school house, no roads, no fences, and no money the pioneers set at the task of developing the township. They suffered many hardships including foreclosures and sheriff's sales, but with patience and perseverance they made Dawson one of the most productive townships in the county. It now boasts of all modern homes and seventy-eight miles of gravel roads with one mile to be paved this year.

Its school system was composed of rural districts and for many years conducted as such. In 1932 a new brick building was erected for District No. 4. The first teacher was Esther Swain and she had eleven pupils. This was declared the first *superior* school in the county and the seventh in the state. However, in the following year it was forced to close because of insufficient pupils. The township was then divided for school purposes and consolidated with Paton and Churdan but District No. 9 preferred to remain independent and still continues as such. At the time of the consolidation the brick school was transferred to Dawson Township for the sum of $1.00 and is now maintained as a township and community hall.

The Friends Church at Paton has played an important part in this community. On May 10, 1879, Clayton Brown's family from Richmond, Indiana, was the first family of Friends to establish a home in Dawson. As there were no Friends here they united with Joshua Jester, a pioneer Methodist, in Sunday school and Church work, at the old Center school house. They went in lumber wagons instead of autos, and across prairie roads instead of on cement. They had the same Gospel story then as now, but many are the changes that have taken place.

In the summer of 1880 William Roberts, a minister of the Friends Gospel, and his family arrived from Richmond. Other Friends followed from Indiana and Iowa communities, adding greatly to their numbers.

The time came for a needed meeting house and in January, 1887, eight men who had been appointed by the monthly meeting decided on the site for the church building where it now stands. A. H. Walker and Josiah Marker promised a deed if the church was commenced before the year 1888; in the eighth month of 1887 the church was nearly completed and dedicated on July 24, 1888. J. H. Douglass preached the sermon in the morning and Marion George in the evening. Sufficient money was pledged at this time to cancel the remaining indebtedness. The cost of the church building and furnishings was $1,774.44.

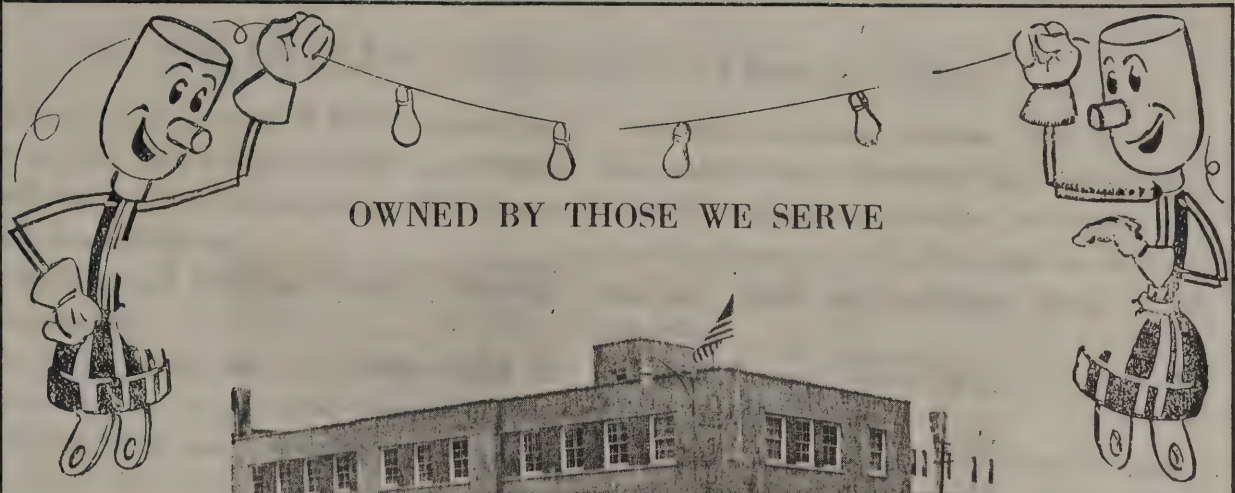
The Paton Friends Church has been in existence for seventy-two years. They have had many pastors and different evangelists, and the charter members are gone, but a new generation is continuing the fine work of this church.

On March 22, 1877, the Board of Trustees of Dawson Township met and decided to condemn, for a cemetery, five acres of land in the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 22 and the valuation was placed at $50. After the legal proceedings were completed the service of the county supervisor was secured to survey and plot the lots at a cost of three cents a lot. The marking of the lots consisted of a brick on each corner of each lot and these old bricks are still there. In the spring of 1879 a contract was let with John Canvin to fence this tract at a cost of $175. The fence was to consist of a post two feet in the ground every eight feet with four boards. This was done with the understanding that at its completion if the township did not have sufficient funds he would carry the unpaid portion at a 10% interest rate. This is a very sacred spot to the present generation as many of their friends and relatives have been laid to rest there. This cemetery is still used and is kept in excellent condition.

Shortly after the opening of the cemetery an epidemic of black diphtheria struck this community, which took a heavy toll. So many individuals were buried in this cemetery at this time that no record of their names was made. The lots were simply marked "taken" and to this day no one knows exactly who was buried in the various plots.

Today Dawson Township has developed into a very beautiful community, well improved and very productive. There are no railroads, no rivers, no timber, no waste land, and no towns in Dawson Township, thus giving it the highest cash value per acre for tax purposes in the county ($75.25). The people of the community are particularly proud of the fact that the oldest native couple in Dawson, Frank D. and Clara A. Walker, have built a beautiful modern home on the same site as that of the first dwelling built in this prosperous township.

Fred Bauer



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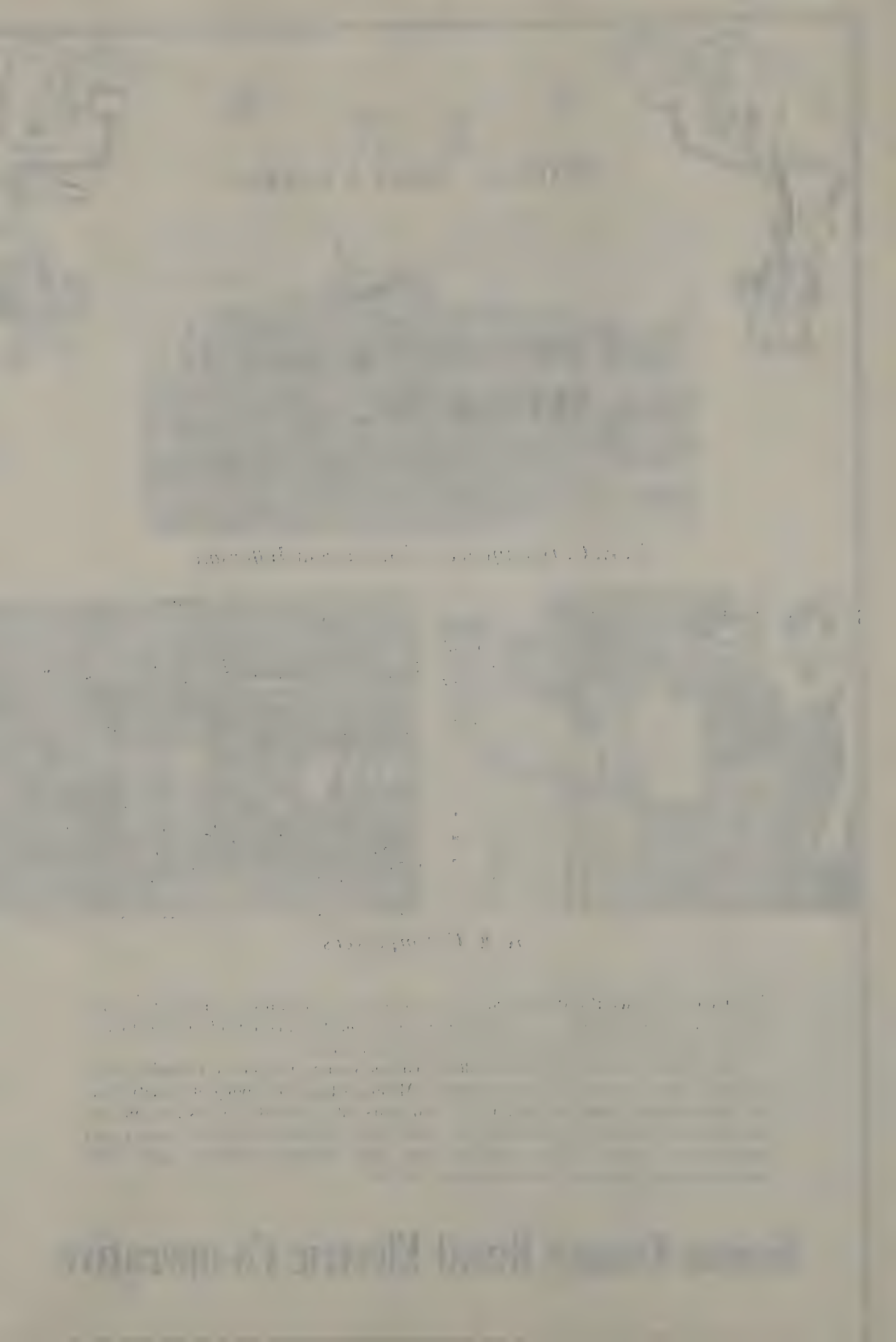
R. E. C. Headquarters Building at Jefferson

R. E. C. Employees

The Greene County Rural Electric Co-operative and its employees may not be 'old-timers' in years, but they are responsible for an outstanding job of service to old-timers—the farms and farm families of Greene County.

The R. E. C. was organized in 1936 by Greene County farmers to furnish electric energy to the rural areas of Greene County. Members began receiving electricity from the first energized lines in 1938. Today—18 years later—the R. E. C. is bringing the modern conveniences of electricity to 4,000 farm families in Greene County and surrounding counties. These families, who were without electricity until 1938, purchased over 16,500,000 kilowatt-hours in 1953.

Greene County Rural Electric Co-operative



FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP—Then and Now

GREENE COUNTY is a part of the Louisiana Purchase secured from France in 1803. Up to 1849 the red man had full power, but in 1851 Greene County was established.

It was not until 1870 that Franklin Township was organized.

The first settlers were subjected to many inconveniences, the nearest post office being Fort Des Moines. Their source of provisions was many miles away with no roads to mark their course, nor bridges over the streams. The means of transportation being the wagon or horseback.

In 1880 the Des Moines & North Western railroad was built under the auspices of the Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific Railroad. It was a narrow gauge road. It was built at a cost of $1,200 a mile, there being 6.1 miles in the township. Franklin paid five per cent of the cost. Cooper, the only town in the township, was established as the station. It was laid out in 1881 by a Des Moines firm and named after Isaac Cooper. In 1881 the railroad was changed to the Milwaukee & St. Paul, and a short time later changed to a wide gauge.

A few of the early settlers were Charles Woods, farmer and stock raiser, who settled here in 1870, and a few years earlier, in 1866, George Robinson came.

Robert Morden, a former storekeeper, purchased and retired to 600 acres of land in 1872. It is interesting to note that Mrs. Morden received her medical diploma in 1866 in Philadelphia and practiced her profession here. Two of their four children, Lena and Roy, are physicians and surgeons.

William L. Franklin, father of our own Dr. George W. Franklin, settled here in 1853. He later was a Civil War soldier and was a prisoner for six months, but when being moved in a train, he jumped while it was moving, and although injured, he escaped, and after very perilous experiences finally reached the Union lines. In 1865 he returned to farming.

Jonathan Robinson, another Civil War veteran, and Professor Harrison Ham came in 1881.

S. W. Wiggins, a storekeeper in Cooper, also a soldier, came in 1875. His daughters still operate in a small way and have charge of the post office.

Joseph Johnson came in 1874, and J. M. Reeder in 1875.

Joseph Thompson settled in Grant Township in 1875, but crossed over into Franklin in 1876. His son, James, resides on the farm.

The land in Franklin Township is rolling excepting along the Raccoon River, which flows through beautiful scenic country in the eastern part. The soil is dark loam and is composed of a vegetable deposit from two to eight feet deep which gives the farmer great reward for his labor, and will produce almost any kind of field or vegetable crop. Fruit is also abundant.

There are deposits of coal.

The climate is that peculiar to the Middle West, some very cold days in winter and hot in summer. On the whole a very delightful climate.

Cooper is a progressive little village of about one hundred inhabitants. Here is situated the first consolidated school of Greene County, which was consolidated in 1919 and now has an enrollment of about 170 pupils.

In 1872 there were seven rural districts with an enrollment of 122 pupils, and by 1886 there were sixteen rural districts with an enrollment of 271.

Cooper has one church, the Methodist Episcopal, built in 1892, and since has been remodeled, and this last year added a modern kitchen.

In the southeastern part of the township is St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, built in 1881 on a high hill overlooking a valley.

The people of Franklin have every reason to be proud to say, "My home is in Franklin Township."

MRS. JIM THOMPSON

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SCENES FROM JEFFERSON'S PAST

Hardly Ever Baseball Club, 1881

Back row, left to right: *O. O. Jay, P. M. Beard, W. E. Whitney, Charles Moody, B. Smith;* first row, *C. E. Richardson, A. C. Taggart, J. A. Shank, O. L. Dick.*

All ready for the parade in the 1900's

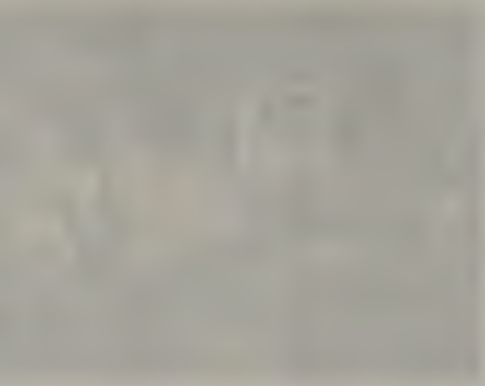
D. H. Huston Hardware Store

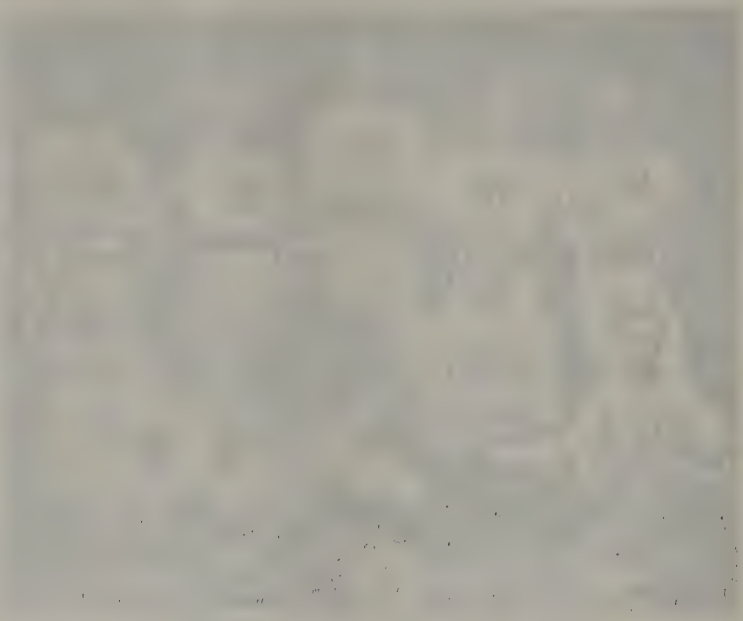
West side of the Square (Columbian Block) in the good old horse and buggy days

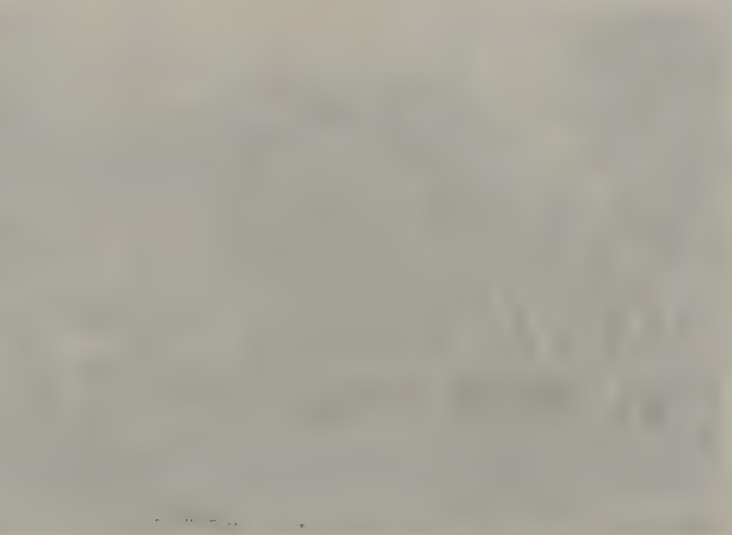
Below:

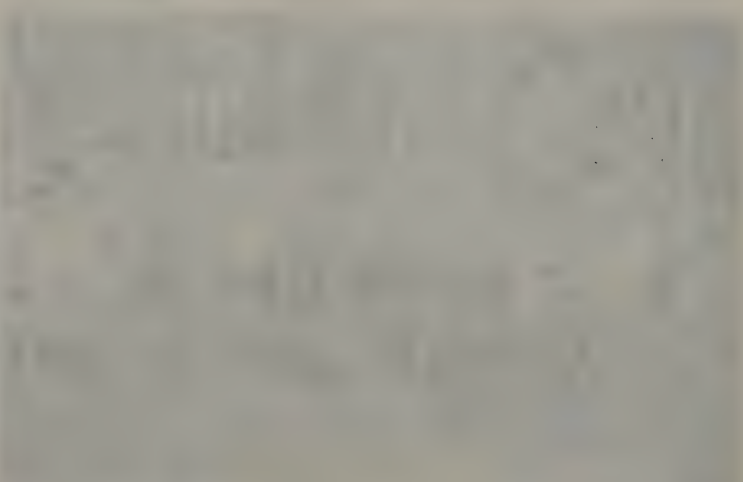
Ready for lady-like exercise in the 1900's

Teddy Roosevelt in a characteristic pose









GRANT TOWNSHIP HISTORY

In the year of 1854, the first election held in Greene County occurred in a log cabin, electing William Phillips as County Judge. This cabin was situated in what is now Grant Township, being organized in 1877, including 29¾ square miles and named for one of the world's greatest soldiers, General U. S. Grant. The earliest business of Greene County was transacted in this so-called court house and even the first marriage occurred here. It has been related that a not too prosperous appearing couple came here to be married and the business-like groom asked, "What do you charge for marrying folks?" Judge Phillips smilingly replied, "The law allows me one dollar and a half." After the knot was tied, the groom handed the judge fifty cents saying, "I don't want to be small. This will make you two dollars, and is pretty good pay." There was no audible blessing from the judge. A monument in memory of this court house was placed on this historical spot. It is an exact replica of the original cabin only in miniature and created of cement. It was designed and built by Mr. Lee Wiggins. Bronze tablets form the doors and give the dates of 1854–1937, this last being the year of dedication by public spirited citizens of Grant Township who donated funds for the cost.

Grant Township is also proud of its marker depicting the old stage coach trail running from Des Moines to Sioux City and passing by Pleasant Hill Cemetery. This trail is marked by a large flint rock bearing a bronze plate with the years 1850–1866. Austin McCuen, a pioneer farmer of this vicinity promoted the marking of this trail and Mrs. Dora Mahaney presented the bronze marker. These trails were originally used for the transportation of soldiers from one fort to another. Here the deeply washed trail can still be seen but has been outmoded for many years due to the laying out of regularly surveyed roads.

Grant Township has a beautiful picnic and recreational area, Squirrel Hollow, which borders the Raccoon River. This project was begun in 1933 and completed in May, 1935, and consists of sixty acres of virgin timber acquired from Lawton, McCuen & Roberts at a cost of $900. It was financed principally from assets of the former chautauqua association. Mr. S. J. Melson, County Engineer, Mr. Austin McCuen, and several others sponsored this project.

Winkleman Switch, a siding on the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railway between Jefferson and Cooper, was formerly an important shipping center. Many loads of stock cattle were shipped in for the feeding yards of the Thompson Bros., Coles, and the late Harry Anthony, and then out as fancy beef for the Chicago markets. Winkleman Switch also had an elevator owned and operated by the Milligan Bros.

The oldest school house was named the 'Billy Anderson School' and was in existence for over sixty years. It was the typical gray, wooden, one-room building, officially Grant No. 4, being closed approximately nine years ago and sold three years later. Each year pupils and former teachers meet at this site for picnics and programs.

Grant Township has had three churches: the Twentieth Century Presbyterian, the Centennial Methodist, and Pleasant Hill. Because of excellent roads and facilities for travel to Jefferson, the first two places of worship have been sold and dismantled. Pleasant Hill continues to have services, is a community center for neighborhood projects, and has a well attended reunion of old friends on Memorial Sunday.

Legend has passed from mouth to mouth that in the early days of many ponds in Grant Township, two men engaged in tiling fell at odds and one, a man of considerable means, picked up and threw a tile, striking the other gentleman on the head. The latter died. A very able lawyer, one Mr. Russell, was engaged to defend the man indicted for manslaughter. He took the case on a contingency basis with the agreement that a certain tract of land in Grant Township would be deeded to him if he successfully defended the indicted. The case came to trial, the defendant was acquitted, and according to agreement the tract of land was deeded over to Mr. Russell, the defending attorney. This area later became Russell's Addition to Jefferson. In the same term of court, a farmer from Kendrick Township was tried for stealing a pig and received ten years!

Greene County's first settler, Truman Davis, is buried in the southern part of Grant Township. His grave is marked by a concrete monument on top of a hill overlooking the Raccoon River Valley.

Mrs. Bessie Black Thompson

We're Just Wondering . . .

We're just wondering what people back in 1854 would have said to present-day motor cars, jet airplanes, nuclear fission, and other scientific wonders of the Twentieth Century.

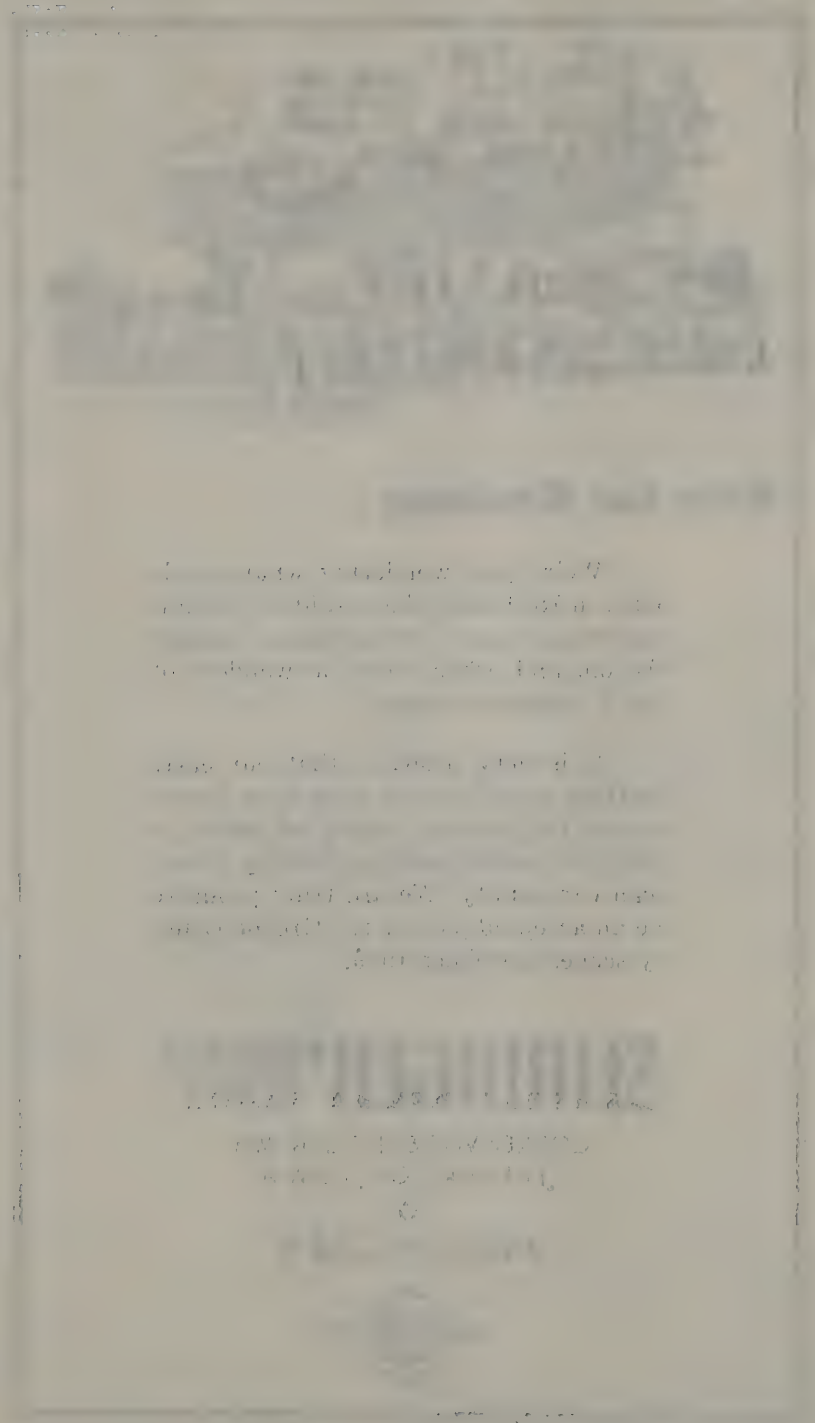
It is very probable that our early settlers would have a hard time recognizing the Greene County of today—a thriving, ever-advancing, healthy American community. We are truly proud to be an accepted part of the Greene County scene, ever since 1919.

SLININGER FUNERAL HOME

CORNER VINE & LINCOLN WAY
JEFFERSON, IOWA

PHONE 245

APPROVED THE ORDER OF THE GOLDEN RULE



PIONEER DAYS IN GREENBRIER TOWNSHIP

WHEN THIS part of the country was still in the wild, James Zeller was the first known to settle here in the year 1869; then came Abraham Cain in 1876, J. E. Berry in 1878, and Edward Cain in 1879.

The township was first named Zeller and about a year later changed to Greenbrier.

The first clerk was John Trible and the first trustees were R. W. Vaux, C. F. McCarty, and John Lawrence. A plot of land was purchased for the Greenbrier Cemetery in 1877. Albert Marsh was the first to buy a lot.

Church services were held in a school house at District No. 5 as early as 1879. In the spring of 1892 a subscription list was started for the erection of a new church in the exact center of the township. Miss Nettie Bell was the first to respond by saying she would give two months of her school wages—a sum of $50.

The trustees at this time were James E. Berry, E. H. Dawson, Frank Boss, Elias Ward, Noah Bess, James Cook, and David Knowles, and they became the building committee. E. H. Dawson donated an acre of ground for the building site. The contract was let to J. B. Cline, of Jefferson, for $1,700. The church was dedicated August 21, 1892. W. G. (Guy) Berry unlocked the door for the dedication service. The Rev. Mr. Everly from Jefferson gave the address and they held services morning, afternoon, and evening.

The Rev. W. L. Douglas was the first minister, also serving Bagley and Bayard, but at the present time the minister serves only Greenbrier and Bayard. Abe Cain presented a pulpit Bible, which is still in use. Blanch Naylor's funeral was the first held in this church. Continuous services have been held here through the years. It is also a meeting place for the W. S. C. S., 4-H members, W. M. F., Farm Bureau, and other groups.

Elias Ward had the first steam threshing machine and Fred Rometsch owned and operated one of the first in 1907–1908. He also owned the first car in the township—a Reo. The Rometsch farm has been in the family for seventy-four years.

The oldest original house still standing was built by W. K. Burkholder in the year 1876 and is now occupied by a grandson, Howard Austin and family.

The A. W. Naylor farm has the distinction of four generations having been born and reared here. The Max Naylor family now occupy the family farm.

Gilbert Berry was born on the farm where he is now living, seventy-three years ago, and has lived there continuously throughout the years.

Carl Denhardt owned and operated the first airplane in the township in 1934.

Only one of the nine school houses is still in use, and this one is now used for election meetings.

Our State Representative, Henry Stevens, who lived on his farm in Greenbrier Township, served his first term in 1915 and is still serving, ten years later.

MRS. LENA BERRY

HENRY STEVENS
State Representative

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HARDIN TOWNSHIP'S CENTURY OF PROGRESS

HARDIN TOWNSHIP was surveyed during the winter of 1852–53 by Samuel T. Caldwell. It was the second one in the county to organize, 1869. Hardin Township was named for a trapper and early settler who built a cabin on the creek bearing his name, Hardin Creek. The township has two other streams, Buttrick Creek along the eastern side and Willow Branch flowing through the middle and emptying into Hardin Creek.

There was an Indian trail across the prairie grass from Goose Lake in the northwest corner of the township to Harker's Grove on Buttrick Creek. Most of the roving Indians traveling this trail were curious but friendly. But not so when the Winnebagos came along. They were the troublemakers and demanded food, then stole it if it was not given to them. Many stories have been told of the early settlers' experiences with them.

One hundred years ago Hardin Township might have been described as a barren waste of prairie land, without roads, churches, school houses, or any sign of civilization. Many elk, deer, and other wild animals wandered freely over the land. In the winter of 1857 a bad storm of rain, then ice, followed by a blizzard out of the northwest making snow drifts ten or more feet deep covering up all food, caused the starvation of the elk and deer. From that time to this many of the wild animals have never been seen in any great numbers.

The land was first purchased from the government for $1.25 an acre. Most of our grandparents paid $6.00, $8.00, or $10.00 an acre for it. Prices have increased each ten years since then, until now if these farms were for sale (many are not) they would sell for $400 or more an acre.

Quite a few of the first settlers came from Eastern states: Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois, stopping for a year or two in Cedar and Linn Counties, then pushing farther west to Greene County where they started again and a surprising number of their children and grandchildren are still in Hardin Township or close by.

In 1854 only one family lived in Hardin Township. Mr. George May lived in the southeast part of the township. A little later the Burnette family located at Hardin Center. In 1856 the Osbornes settled on Hardin Creek, and Matthew Custer broke the prairie sod on the farm still owned by the Custer family. From 1860 to 1870 quite a few families came by covered wagon. The Chicago & North Western Railway crossed Greene County in 1869 and with the improved transportation more families came and settled.

One and two-tenths miles of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad crossed the southwest corner of Hardin Township. There is no other railroad now, but when the Chicago & North Western was building across Iowa, they ran a spur of track up into Hardin Township, where they loaded and shipped out quantities of gravel that was used in railroad construction. Later the track was removed, and the huge pit left after the removal of the gravel was known for years as "The Gravel Pit." It is now called Spring Lake, and having been purchased by the state is being improved as a recreational center, with swimming, fishing, and boating facilities.

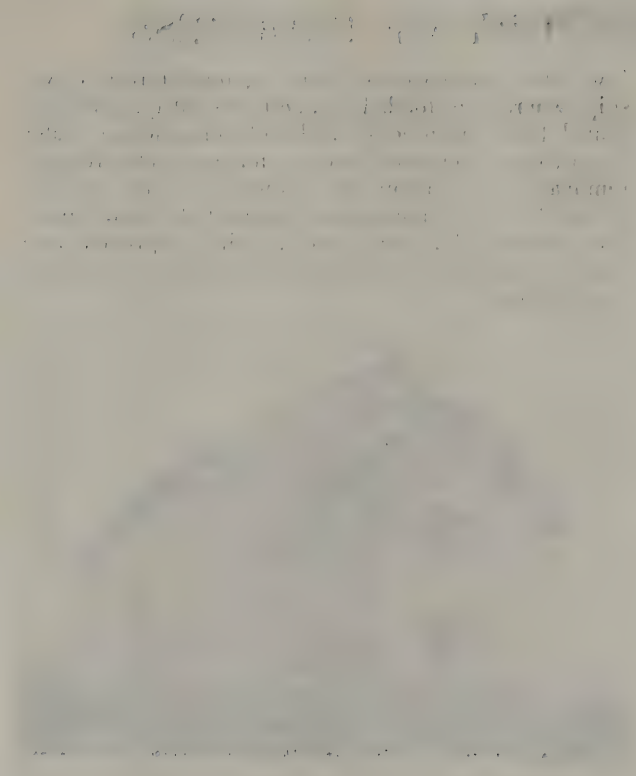
Mount Horeb Church was located four miles north of Jefferson on the 'Mill Road.' It was dedicated September 11, 1881, on land given by Robert Lord; it was of Methodist denomination, and services were held every Sunday until 1926, when the memberships were transferred to the Methodist Church in Jefferson. In 1927, the building and contents were sold at auction, and the land transferred to the Black estate. T. K. Black had purchased the farm on which it was located, from Robert Lord in 1885. As the church was organized in 1876, and services were held in a school house until the church building was completed, it boasted of fifty years of continuous services.

Hardin Township roads for the most part were laid out in the one-mile square pattern, with one unusual exception. The 160 acres cornering Hardin Center school house to the southwest has a road on all sides, making these roads one-half mile apart.

The Harker Ranch was outstanding for its size and operations. It consisted of 1,140 acres, owned by John C. Harker, and it bordered the east edge of Hardin Township. Mr. Harker invented and used a large caterpillar tractor, truly a spectacular piece of machinery in the 'horse and buggy days.' Mr. Harker's mammoth harvesting machine was also in proportion to the size of the ranch. Simon Harker, a brother of John, had two steers that weighed over 4,000 pounds each. They were reported to be twenty years old, and about 1888 they were a great attraction at the many fairs where he showed them.

Hardin Township was first in many things but also was different in some ways. It had its regular nine school districts, and it had a complete ruling board in each district. All other townships in the county had one director from each district which elected a township governing board. All is changed now in 1954, all rural schools in the township are closed, with most of the pupils attending the Jefferson schools, a few going to Dana and Grand Junction.

Compiled from records of MRS. R. E. BOWLEY, MRS. HELEN BENSON, and DR. J. R. BLACK



HIGH LIGHTS OF HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP

One of the earliest settlements in Highland Township was the town of Churdan. It was named in honor of Joseph Churdan, senior, grandfather of Mrs. Yates E. Allen who now resides in Churdan. According to legend this name was originally pronounced with the accent on the first syllable but the brakemen on the train drawled it out so long when calling the stations that it finally became the accepted usage to place the accent on the last syllable as it is now called Chur-dan'.

Mr. Churdan came to Highland Township in 1868 when there were only two log buildings in the township. He was a successful farmer and business man taking active interest in the development of Churdan. The town is located on what was formerly the Des Moines and Fonda Branch of the Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific Railroad. The railroad was completed in 1882 and on March 1st of the same year J. H. Hunter opened the first store in Churdan. This store was operated by Hunter & Livingston.

Churdan was incorporated April 29, 1884, with the first council comprising J. C. Hill, E. M. Fowler, J. H. Hunter, E. Harding, and F. M. Stotts. The first mayor was E. M. Westbrook and the first recorder was W. E. Dickenson. T. J. Wright is our present and competent mayor.

A hardware and implement store was erected by A. J. Dudley. This building was used as a community center for dances and entertainment during the week. On Sundays worship was held there by a priest from Lohrville, with the Roman Catholics later building a church in 1886.

The first church building was erected during the summer of 1885 by the Presbyterians, but it was used by both the Presbyterians and the Methodists. The Rev. Mr. Stophlet, a Presbyterian minister from Rockwell City, helped with the services and organization of the church. The Methodists erected their church in 1889; L. W. Archer was their first minister. The Baptist Church was started by the Rev. L. A. Loveless April 19, 1889, with thirty-four charter members. The Free Methodist Church was led by H. D. Rogers.

There was a one-room building in the north part of town which was used for the school. Later a high school was built in the south end of town on the present site. The mail was carried by horseback with W. B. Livingston being the first carrier and Mr. Joseph Churdan the first postmaster. The first women's organization was the Friday Club, which is still functioning.

Churdan has developed into a clean, pleasant, and desirable farming community. It has over six miles of paved and black topped streets, sewer system, water, and electricity. The 600 inhabitants are proud of our five churches, a fine consolidated school, modern stores, cafes, locker service, large co-operative elevator, bank, two physicians, a veterinarian, and many other trades and services.

The village of Adaza in northwest Highland Township has played a big part in the progress of northern Greene County.

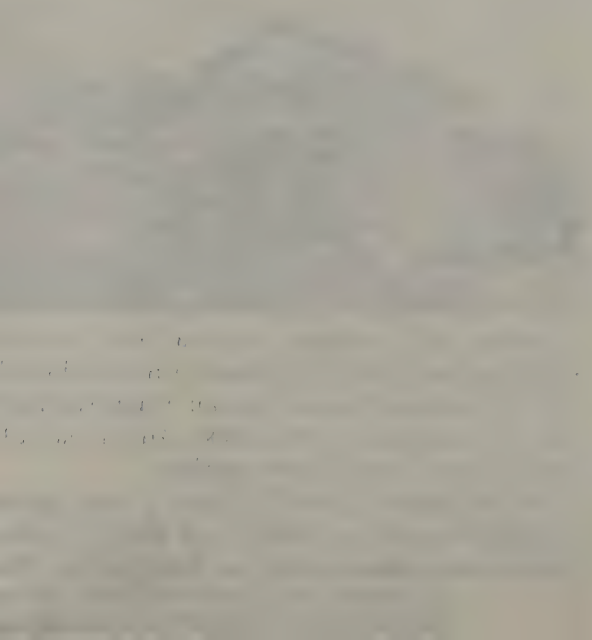
In the early days this was just a shipping point with platform for handling freight and livestock and was called Cottonwood Grove. Legend has it that a passenger on the train asked the conductor the name of the place and being told it was Cottonwood Grove the passenger said, "Aint she a daisy," and from this conversation the village derived its name.

At one time Adaza had two general stores, hotel and cafe, creamery, and was the home of the famous champion Aberdeen Angus herd owned by C. J. Martin. People from all over the United States came to his sales.

Adaza was for many years a large livestock shipping center. D. S. Lightner, who lived on the old Cottonwood Farm, was an extensive buyer and and shipper of livestock. Adaza has also always been a good grain market.

At the present time Milligan & Son operate a large elevator in Adaza and there is also a general store there known as The Trading Post.

Compiled from records of Mrs. Allie Wheery, Mr. Joe Hunt, and committee



JACKSON TOWNSHIP'S JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY

THE COON RIVER VALLEY, cutting diagonally across the northeast part of the township, gives it that rugged character like the President, Andrew Jackson, after whom it was named.

The first settlers came by ox team when there were no bridges and all streams had to be forded. Dr. D. E. Lyon's and Floyd Stevens's grandfather, Isaac Clopton, came in May, 1851, secured a claim from the government of 160 acres, and was the first to turn a furrow in Jackson Township.

In the early fifties there were about a dozen families, the Wrights, Morlans, Flecks, and Cloptons, who settled along the river where they had land to cultivate and timber for fuel. They went on horseback to Des Moines, the nearest trading post, once a month for provisions. Later on, in the seventies and eighties, two grist mills, Eureka at Eureka Bridge, and the Fleck Mill, two miles upstream, served all the surrounding country with grists.

There were several Wright families whose farms joined, forming the Wright settlement about four miles west of Jefferson. Clayborne Wright was an itinerant preacher living on his farm and journeying on horseback in the adjourning states, and as far west as Colorado. His sons were Levi and Miles. Isom Wright's sons were Howard, Isaiah, Merida, and Len. Silas Wright's sons were John E. and Nathan. Ervin Wright was a preacher, farming through the week and preaching on Sundays. In 1855 he organized the Christian Church congregation of Short Bend and a log church was built. Later in the early seventies a frame church building was erected and renamed Highland. This was the only rural church between Scranton and Jefferson and when church picnics or basket dinners were held long tables were put up in the yard to accommodate the people coming from all the surrounding country. In the early 1900's the building was wrecked to be taken to Jefferson to become part of the church at the corner of Garfield and Olive Streets.

The Summers, Tylers, Hoppers, and Gibsons located just west of the Wright settlement. Andy Glenn located near Jackson Center and his son, Allan Glenn, was one of the social leaders in the township.

Living as neighbors in the western part were Charley Cleveland and 'Patsy' Dunivan, the grandfathers of Charles Cleveland, County Treasurer, and Ralph Potter, druggist.

Robert Eason settled in the extreme northwest, 'Uncle Tommy' Roberts in the eastern, and Ransom Jenison, whose son, Will, was County Superintendent of Schools in the nineties, settled in the southern part.

The Eureka settlement near the Eureka Bridge formed almost a village, with the Carters, Ways, Dodges, Youngs, and Davenports. Among the young girls of this settlement was Nettie Davenport, whose son we know today as Dr. George Gallup.

Wreck of Eureka Bridge after spring freshet

The first weddings in the township were Albert Gibson and Mary Seaman in 1857, Merida Wright and Opaline Snyder in 1860, John E. Wright and Martha J. Shain in 1860, Miles Wright and Elizabeth Baum in 1861, Valentine Kennet and Matilda Gibson in 1861, Levi Wright and Martha Seaman, 1861, John Tyler and Neaty Combs, 1861.

In 1866 the Chicago & North Western railroad came only as far as Boone and when it was put through Jackson Township the progress was slow for a river bridge had to be built and much grading done west through the hills. The bridge was low and the grade too steep for long trains so a switch was put in at Coon Siding and half the train would be taken to the side-track then the other half brought up and the train recoupled. East and west bound trains would also pass here.

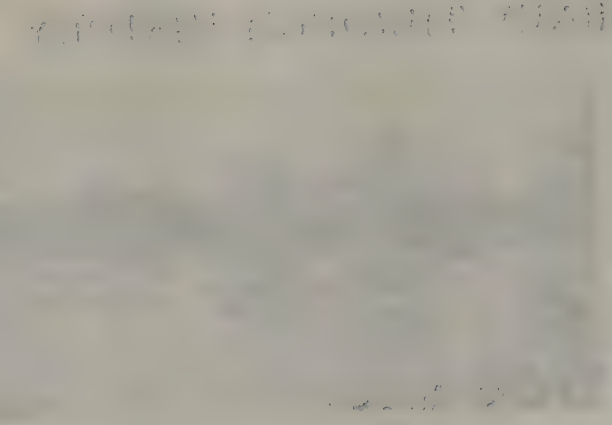
At one time Coon Siding was on the map and a ticket could be bought to, but not from, this station. A switch house was built inside the right-of-way, for a man must tend the switch lights. Verl Bryant's uncle lived there for a while and Mrs. Andrew Jenison and Mrs. Web Ott spent some of their girlhood days there. When, in the early nineties, a new high bridge was built and the track straightened the old siding was abandoned. Yet while the double track was being laid in the late nineties a block house was put just east of the switch to signal the trains.

A band of Mesquakie Indians from Tama often camped at Fleck's Mill on their way to and from Nebraska. Sometimes these Indians spent several months trapping along the Coon River. They were friendly and would work a little. The Indian would sit in the shade and care for the papoose while the squaw hoed potatoes.

Even after the railroad came through mail was scarce for it was still the days before stamps. If a letter did come, "Ten cents paid," was written in ink across the envelope.

Today the farm homes in Jackson Township are as modern as city homes. Modern roads, modern farming methods, and the progress made by the early settlers has continued to make this township one of the best.

NELLIE HOPPER



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"Where You Gas and Re-tire for Less"

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ARMSTRONG : DUNLOP : FIRESTONE : U. S. TIRES
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Most Complete Stock in Central Iowa at Lowest Prices

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Tire Service on All Sizes and Kinds at the Station,
on the Road, or on the Farm

TANK WAGON DELIVERIES

Sylvania Television Sales and Service

1000 East Lincolnway JEFFERSON, IOWA ORVILLE E. TESCH, *Owner*

OUR ONE REGRET . . .

is the fact, that there ain't enough candles to celebrate the one hundredth birthday of Greene County in the style we would like.

Perhaps the best way to greet this wonderful county, which after one hundred years, is still young in heart, is to use the old greeting in simple words and say from Cudahy's, "The heartiest wishes for the very best on your hundredth birthday and hundreds of birthdays to come."

Cudahy Paint & Wallpaper Company

ELITE CLEANERS & FURRIERS

*

Hatters : Fur Cold Storage

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Twenty-six Years at Your Service

112 South Wilson Ave. Jefferson, Iowa

Congratulations to Greene County on Its 100th Birthday

Buick Sales and Service

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Telephone: 189 Jefferson, Iowa

Anniversary Greetings

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Ten Years of Service to Farm Bureau Members

PETROLEUM
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SCENES FROM JEFFERSON'S PAST

Part of crowd at celebration July 4, 1913

Union Bus Line

State Street on circus day

Scene during World War I

"Every Iowa Farmer Should Own At Least One Ford Tractor"

If your overhead expense is running too heavy, we can help reduce your operating costs.

The Ford Tractor and Fordson Major Diesel are both very versatile and economical operating units, suited to year 'round operation and designed for three-point hydraulic or direct attached implements.

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For easy, economical and practical operating farm power and machinery, go to

FARQUHAR-BROWN TRACTOR COMPANY

Jefferson, Iowa Telephone: J-2

JEFFERSON—Growing with Greene County

THE TOWN OF JEFFERSON was laid out in 1854 at a time when the financial condition of the county was such that it was necessary to effect a loan of $200 for the purchase of the site.

The records give this account of the transaction: "The Court has this 7th day of October A.D. 1854, borrowed of Hoyt Sherman, a banker of Fort Des Moines, the sum of $200.00 with which it has caused the following real estate to be entered in the name and for the use of Greene County, in the State of Iowa, to-wit: the north one-half of the southwest quarter and the south one-half of the northwest quarter of Section 8, Township 83, north of Range 30, west of the 5th principal meridian of Iowa, containing 160 acres" and signed by William Phillips, County Judge.

Exploring the records further we find that on November 6, 1854, the court borrowed $203 at 10% interest from William P. Crumley with which to pay Hoyt Sherman the amount of money borrowed from him on October 7th, together with $3.00 interest. Later, on February 17, 1855, the court ordered the treasurer to pay to Hoyt Sherman another $10.00—also interest.

The town was named Jefferson in honor of our President, Thomas Jefferson. There was already a town named Jefferson, located near Dubuque and the Post Office Department refused to grant another office of the same name in the state, so Captain Rippey gave to our town the name 'New Jefferson.' The Post Office Department accepted this and granted the office. Later the 'New' was dropped.

At the first sale of lots those around the square brought $10.00 apiece, while those not so advantageously located were sold from $3.00 to $5.00 each. The highest price paid for a lot was $60.00—the lot where the J. C. Penney store now stands.

The story goes that after the survey of lots was made Judge Phillips and B. F. Robinson staged a wrestling match to see who should have the first choice of lots. Judge Phillips won and so to him was given the honor of buying the first lot in Jefferson.

In a pioneer community there must of necessity be many 'firsts.' So the first house on the town site of Jefferson was built by George Walton. The house was one of the best of its kind, and built of hewn logs. During the summer of 1855 the Walton family were the only inhabitants of the town. Later this house was used as a store, boot and shoe shop, and hotel.

Another version has it that B. F. Robinson and not Walton built the first house within the present incorporated town. Robert M. Rippey built the second house on the town site. The third house was erected by Doctor Lewis who was the first physician of the place. He died the following winter and this was the first death in Jefferson.

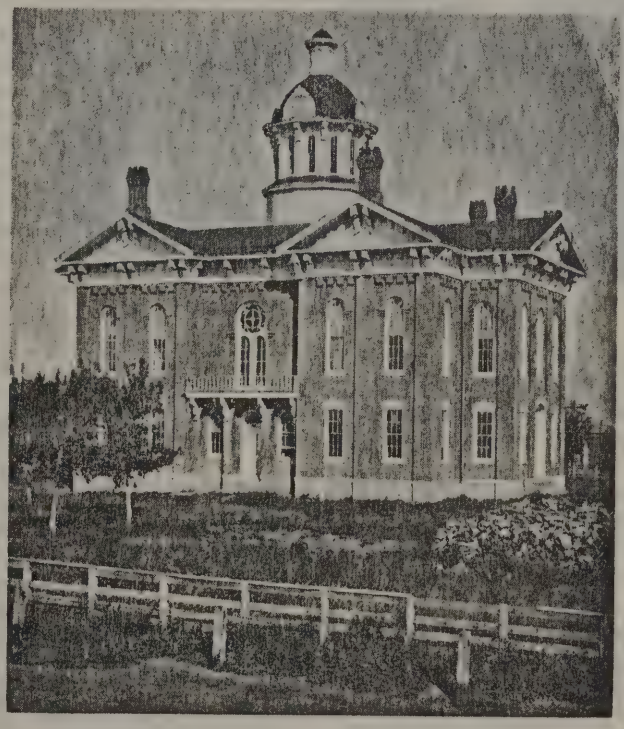
Greene County has a beautiful court house located in the center of Jefferson's public square. The cornerstone of this building was laid May 15, 1916. It was completed and dedicated October 17, 1917, at a cost of $179,752.66.

Previously, two less pretentious buildings stood on the square. The first court house to be built on the town site was erected in 1856. Prior to this time Judge Phillips had held court at his farm located southeast of Jefferson.

Again turning to court records: "June 2, 1856, The time having expired for receiving bids for the court house, the bids were opened and the contract awarded by this court to James Stanford for the sum of $1,825, and he is required to give bond for completion of same." Signed by Robert M. Rippey, County Judge.

This court house was completed, examined, and accepted by the court November 25, 1856.

The second court house was built in 1870. It was a brick structure. While the third court house was being built this structure was moved to the west side of the court yard and was in use until no longer needed.



The first mail route through the county was established in 1857. It carried the mail from Adel to Jefferson once a week and the first postmaster was George S. Walton.

The first marriage license in the county was issued to Moses Bowers and Mahala Young.

According to some records the first child to be born on the original town plot was the child of George S. Walton and she was loyally named 'Adah Jefferson.'

Oxen were used almost entirely by the pioneers; horses were seldom seen. During the winter of 1855 and 1856 an ox train of fifteen or twenty yoke made a trip from Jefferson to Burlington and hauled back a steam engine and saw mill together with all the necessary machinery. This enterprise was conceived

JEFFERSON—(Continued)

and carried out by Rippey, McBride & Culley, the first steam enterprise in the history of the town. And this sawmill built by these three men was of great material assistance to those wanting to build. The buildings erected were mostly south and east of the square. In 1856 the only ones on the square were the court house and O. J. White's shoe shop.

An account of Jefferson's past would be incomplete without making mention of schools and churches.

The first public school taught in Jefferson was during the winter of 1856 and 1857 and the teacher of this school was Azor R. Mills, who came to Iowa from Medina County, Ohio, where he had received a good, common school education. Since no school house had been built he taught in the new court house and young people in large numbers came in from neighboring townships.

The first school building (in the late fifties) was a frame structure built mainly of native timber and was located two blocks southeast of the square. In 1872 a brick edifice was built which was destroyed by fire in 1889. During the last years of its occupancy it was used as headquarters for the grammar department, the primary pupils being taught in a room over the village saloon.

This latter school house was located on the site of the present grade school building. The building and the full block of ground cost $17,000 and it is said there were 147 trees on the block of ground. In 1885 a course of study was adopted, on completion of which pupils were admitted to the state university without examination. The longest term of service on the school board was given by Mr. David Milligan who served for thirty-seven years, and Mrs. Oscar Jay served for thirty years as a teacher. That record has been broken by Miss Agnes Dowd.

In March of 1889 the school building was burned as a result of spontaneous combustion and the following winter a fine new building was dedicated (cost $25,000). In 1905 $20,000 was voted for a new high school building. This was located on the north part of the lot on which the present grade school building is located and joined to the last named building. This served until 1917 when the building was condemned as being unsafe for use. School was held here and there over town; classes were held in the old opera house, now the Iowa Theater, and temporary frame buildings were set up on the school house grounds. One of these, called by the students 'The Sheepshed,' will long be remembered by those who attended school there.

High School Building dedicated in 1906

Jefferson now has two school buildings, the grade school building, located three blocks off Jefferson's square and a fine high school building located on West Harrison Street between Vine and South Elm Streets. This building was completed in 1917 at a cost of $160,000. In 1952 a very complete gymnasium was added to this building. It has a seating capacity of 2,100 people.

The first church established in Jefferson was the Methodist Episcopal. It properly belonged to and was a part of the Greene Mission which had some branches extending along the north 'Coon River settlements in Greene County.

The old Methodist Episcopal Church

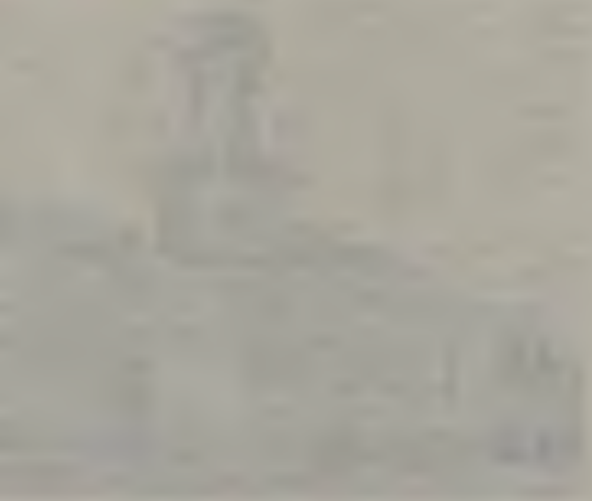
The original plat of Jefferson included 160 acres. Later additions, Manning's, Blair's, Gallaher's (two), J. G. and Albert Head's, have nearly tripled the original holdings. Jefferson was incorporated as a town in 1872.

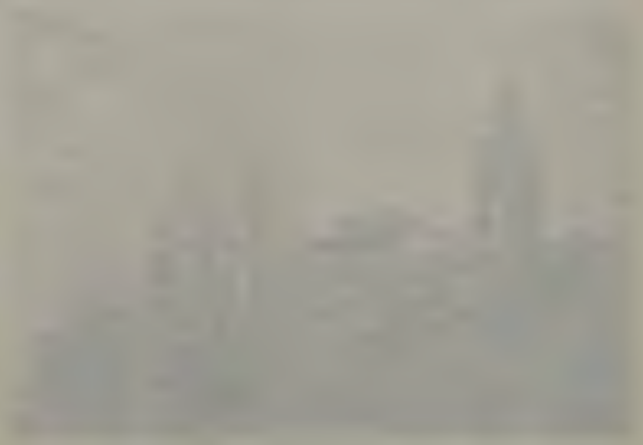
The Cedar Rapids & Missouri Railroad organized to build a railroad across the State of Iowa, laid its track as far as Boone in the autumn of 1868, and the next season the line was completed to the Missouri River.

Jefferson and vicinity contributed several thousand dollars and eighty acres of land to secure railroad connection with the rest of the world. As soon as completed the road was leased to the Chicago & North Western railroad for a period of ninety-nine years.

Business and industries of pioneer days reflect the needs of the people and the times. Oxen and later horses needed to be shod so the blacksmith shop did a thriving business. Mr. John Inbody was one of the early blacksmiths of Jefferson. Wagons had to be made and repaired and the firm of Lindell & Sutton took care of this need. To take care of the traveling public, livery barns were essential, as were feed stores. One of the early barns was owned by Roland Roberts who had a livery and feed store. Later, G. G. Eagleson, also Lower & Tolliver had livery stables. Several grist mills were to be found up and down the Raccoon River.

Early records (1860) show that Isaac Tucker supplied the community with meats and groceries. One of





the first retail stores within the limits of the present corporate town was operated by B. F. Robinson.

In 1870 A. Yerger was a dealer in lumber, grain, lime, cement, and farm implements. J. B. Cline was a cabinet maker. In 1875 Culley & Hassett dealt in hardware. In 1880 we find the name of F. M. Franklin, undertaker. He also carried a line of furniture.

Here is a partial list of the firms doing business in Jefferson in 1886:

Charles Bofinger	Hardware
E. H. Carter	Dry goods and groceries
Church & Ellis	Groceries
O. L. Dick	Books and news
E. W. Foy	Druggist
Harrington, Moorehouse & Milligan	Roller mills
G. B. Kendall	Restaurant
T. A. Mugan	Restaurant
Leopold Freund	Restaurant

There are other names which should be mentioned in connection with the earlier years of Jefferson's history: there are the M. C. Buffies (I. J. and M. B.), L. J. Grisier, the Head brothers (Albert, Mahlon, Joseph, Aaron, and Caleb), Miles Marquis and his son Charles, George Brandon, and J. J. Russell. There are the early physicians: Doctor Enfield, Doctor Young, Dr. B. C. Hamilton (senior), and Doctor Grimmell. Our early dentists were Doctor Alan and Doctor Bradshaw. Our first osteopath was Dr. J. K. Johnson (senior).

There are several firms in Jefferson whose roots go back to early times. The Milligan Brothers carry on the work of D. Milligan Company. As early as 1869, David Milligan was associated with Captain A. Yerger in his lumber business. In 1872 he was given an interest in the business. When Mr. Yerger retired, Mr. Milligan formed a partnership with Moorehouse & Harrington. When Mr. Moorehouse retired the firm was operated by Harrington & Milligan. Mr. Harrington retired and the firm became the D. Milligan Company. Now his two grandsons, Frank and Robert Milligan, carry on the work of the lumber office.

Another old firm is that of Oppenheimer & Durlam. Hugo and Julius Oppenheimer founded the store in 1889. Hugo retired from the firm and Julius carried on the business. About 1914 Chester became a partner in the firm, and later carried on alone until he sold an interest to Loren Durlam.

In 1890 J. F. Shuey purchased from F. M. Riley the drug business which his son, John Shuey, now owns and operates.

L. B. Kendall owns and manages a recreational parlor and has been in business in Jefferson since May of 1900.

And so we bring to a close this history of Jefferson. It has been necessary to leave out many interesting things.

Jefferson is a friendly town of friendly people. We are proud of our town. All old-time history contains more or less of legend, more or less of fact, and after all, a hundred years is a hundred years and it has been a long trail from hitching posts to parking meters.

MRS. HARRY RICHARDSON

1911 *Bon Ton Shoppe* 1954

EXCLUSIVENESS . . . Is a feature of our growth. The place to go . . . for fashions that go places.

NINE DEPARTMENTS . . . Hose, Corsets, Accessories, Lingerie, Dresses, Hats, Children's Apparel, Coats, and Suits.

FORTY-THREE YEARS AND STILL GROWING

To our many, many friends, customers, hundreds of clerks, and trimmers, we feel humbled by the goodness that you wonderful people have bestowed upon us, and we feel a tremendous pride that we have been able to grow and expand to an even greater future than we had ever thought possible by all of your co-operation.

Your figure is your age line. Our business is Personalized Service
You are always welcome at the . . .

BON TON SHOPPE
Lucy Wolfe Morton Wolfe
116 North Wilson Avenue Jefferson, Iowa

MILLIGAN'S

Serving Greene County for 85 Years

D. Milligan,

Representing
Harrington & Milligan
Davis & Milligan
E. A. & F. D. Milligan

LUMBER AND GRAIN,

Jefferson, Iowa.

Business Card of
D. MILLIGAN
used before the turn
of the century

Early Day
Milligan
Lumber
Yard
and
Grain
Elevator

MILLIGAN BROTHERS
FRANK AND BOB

E. A. MILLIGAN & SONS
ELMER, D. O., AND DAVE

CONGRATULATIONS
TO JEFFERSON AND GREENE COUNTY ON THEIR
100th Anniversary

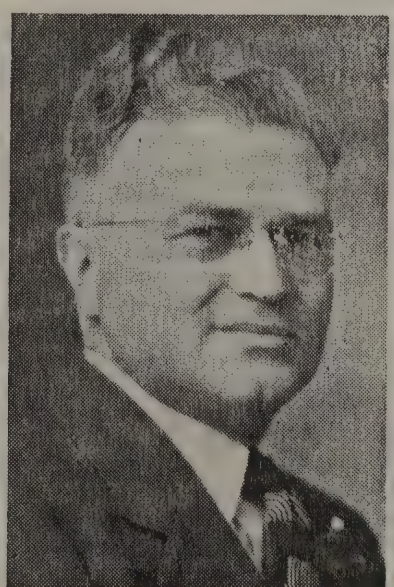
The Jefferson Chamber of Commerce

Is Proud to Have Been the
Official Centennial Headquarters for This Celebration

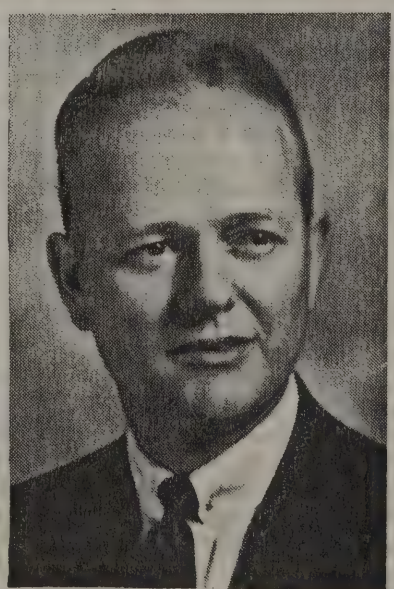
We hope our great county will continue to develop and prosper in the coming 100 years through the harmony and united efforts of all our people.

65 Years Known for Good Clothes

JULIUS OPPENHEIMER
1889–1922



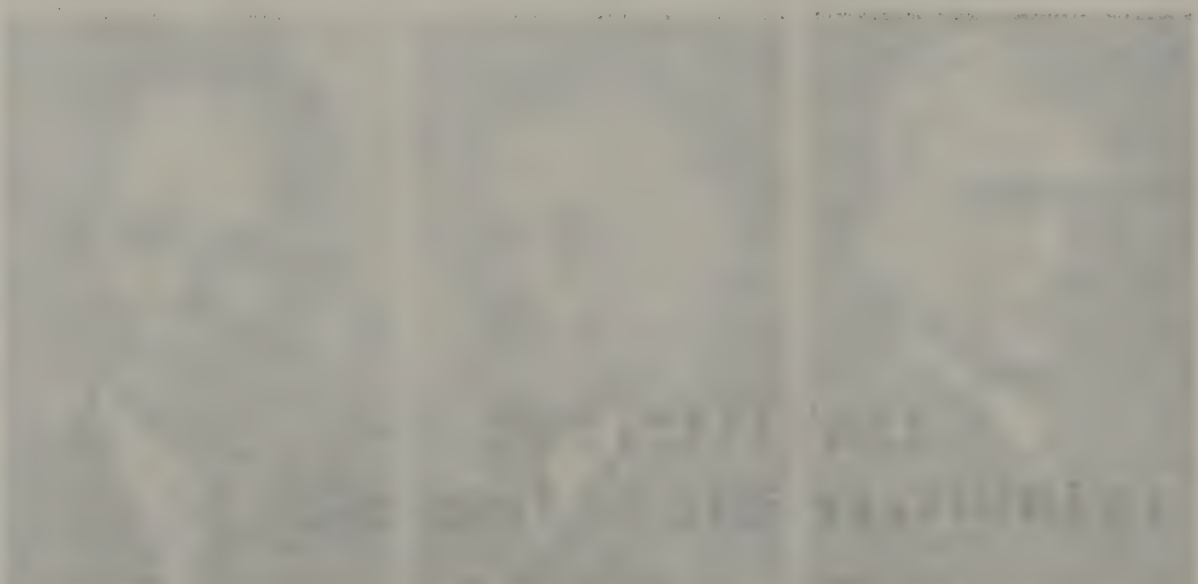
CHESTER OPPENHEIMER
1922–1954



LORAN W. DURLAM
1941–

OPPENHEIMER & DURLAM

65 Years in the Same Location **110 East State Street, Jefferson, Iowa**



Cavalcade of a Century

By Way of Introduction

WE ACQUAINT you with a wholly fanciful and imaginary character, who, at the same time, really is very much alive in the respect that he is most probably a sort of universal and composite picture of a homey and down to earth individual as everyone might see him at once . . . A Pioneer Personage who will reappear at various times in our story, to "kinda explain an' mebbe emphasize a point or two that you folks 'ould otherwise be likely to overlook" . . . an ancient fellow we shall affectionately call "The Old Timer."

Prologue

A FANFARE of trumpets heralds the arrival of our Centennial Queen, Miss Centennial, preceded by the Centennial Princesses, with the Ladies in Waiting, Pages, and Court Attendants of the Entourage . . . Down through The Avenue of Flags comes Her Majesty, as the State Girls, the United Nations Princesses, Military Cadets, and United States Jackies pay their homage to the Queen.

Episode II. *We Travel to the Long Ago*

SINCE we are still in the present and would like to take you back to the past and relive it as if it were happening at this moment, we make the transition by gradual stages, taking you from your airplane, slowly backward in time on an automobile, then the 'horseless carriage,' from which we carry you by Old Dobbin and the buggy, thence on an ox-drawn covered wagon to a waiting burro and, in the final journey, place you on an Indian drag, or *travois* . . . Now you are back here more than a century ago . . . Now you find yourself in the wilderness of Yesteryear, but for you it is Today . . .

Episode III. *The Land of the Red Men*

FOR countless moons the Sac and Fox Indian tribes have lived in their picturesque and tepee-studded villages, criss-crossed by the hunting paths which follow along the green banks of the river . . . Here they seek the plentiful wild game, grow their maize, and fish the primitive streams . . . Here they commune with nature and offer their quaint ceremonial rituals and tribal dances in an effort to worship or appease The Great Spirit . . . The first pale-faced and strange member of the 'White Gods' to greet the awed red men and to share their portion was the devout French Catholic priest, who journeyed here from Detroit in 1837.

Episode IV. *White Settlers*

Scene I. *Hail, Ye Pioneers!*

NOW it is the year 1845 and the sight of the beautiful prairies lures our early settlers . . . We see Truman Davis and his wife as they alight from their Conestoga wagon. Mrs. Davis stands looking westward and exclaims, "Truman, this is where we will build our home." Envisioning the future the party bivouac for the night. Thus the first home was built in Greene County.

Scene II. *Life on the Prairie*

THE hardy pioneers rest from their labors as they gather around the campfire . . . As they offer a simple prayer for their safe keeping . . . the assemblage partake of an evening meal . . . Now the fiddlers appear and tune up as the hand clapping begins and everyone 'squares away' for a lively square dance.

Episode V. *Survey of the County Seat*

SEVERAL points were considered for the county seat, but finally the present site was selected . . . The town was immediately surveyed on pre-empted land bought for $200 from Hoyt Sherman, of Des Moines, at the incredible rate of 40% interest . . . The county judge, William Phillips, placed four logs for the foundation of a pre-emptor's shanty and publicly declared that Greene County had a squatter's sovereign right to 160 acres of land. Jefferson Barber, R. M. Rippey, and A. R. Mills immediately set to work to survey and lay out the land.

Episode VI. *Early Church*

IT IS Sunday now and we attend one of the first religious services, which takes place in a cabin where the circuit rider has already baptized the babies who have seen the light of day since his last visit . . . He has also joined a few of their older brothers and sisters in holy wedlock at the same time. Thus we sit with the congregation as the Reverend Daniel Lamont reads the Twenty-third Psalm in the first Methodist church service in Greene County . . . The Old Timer tells us that the Baptists established their church in 1857, the Presbyterians in 1867, and the Catholic church before 1870.

Episode VII. *The Three* R's

NOW we are peeking into a session of the first school . . . It is a cabin, sixteen feet wide and twenty-two feet long . . . The teacher is Azor R. Mills . . . At first, instruction was confined to the three *R*'s, readin', 'ritin', and 'rithmetic.

Cavalcade of a Century (Continued)

Episode VIII. *First Hotel*

THE first hotel in Greene County was kept by Charles Hathaway . . . The Hotel De-Pitch-In was a meeting place for all the villagers, where they could come to get the latest news, to read the journals, and learn of the sensational cattle robberies of the day as they were posted on the walls by the village marshal . . . Here they might talk politics, attend town meetings, parties, weddings, and also wait for the stage in order to pick up their mail from friends in the East.

Episode IX. *To Preserve the Union*

APRIL 16, 1861, the peace of the town is suddenly shattered as the fateful headlines read: "Fort Sumter Is Fired Upon" . . . President Lincoln has asked for 75,000 volunteers and here are the Boys in Blue of Greene County as they appear on the streets of the town to recruit men for their forces.

Episode X. *Lincoln the Emancipator*

IT IS 1865 . . . Atlanta has been captured and Lee has surrendered to General Grant almost a year ago. We pay tribute to a shining soul who has weathered this turmoil and this boodshed, bearing on his stooping shoulders the burdens of a war-torn nation as its Chief . . . grave in his heartfelt mourning for those dead and wounded and the suffering ones left behind, regardless of their allegiance, regardless of their color or their creed.

Episode XI. *The First Iron Horse*

IN 1868 the Chicago & North Western railroad was built as far as Boone. Today, in 1869, we are all down at the station to celebrate the arrival of the first 'iron horse' in Greene County . . . "Gosh, this here engine can go fast! Some folks say in excess of twenty-five miles an hour! But here comes Number 7 now. What's that? The band is playin'? Get goin', Lem, we're a-goin' to join the folks in the dancin'. Understand this celebration is gonna last for three whole days."

Episode XII. *The Gay Nineties*

IT IS the turn of the century and the era of "The Bicycle Built for Two," "Leg o' Mutton Sleeves," and "Empress Eugenie" hats, "wasp waists," "Twenty-three Skiddoo," and "Oh, You Kid!" Basket picnics over in the park, surreys with the 'fringe on top' and the new-fangled 'Horseless Carriage' are the rage! It is the age of 'rag-time,' peg-top trousers, high button shoes, stogies, and the 'derby.' "Tuck in yer shirt-waist, Nellie, an' watch th' birdie while th' man takes yer tin-type!" "Let's lit in on the band concert, Oley, and mebbe ya hadn't oughta put yer arm 'round me in public."

Episode XIII. *World War One*

IT IS 1914 and President Woodrow Wilson has protested unrestricted submarine warfare as the war clouds once again appear on the horizon . . . Now, on April 16, 1917, the United States declares war! Greene County men again answer the call . . . We pause here to pay tribute to those buddies who never returned and who, like the others who gave their all, marched off to the tunes of 'Over There' and 'Tipperary' in the courageous effort to win global conflict "to end all wars."

1990812

Episode XIV. *The Roaring Twenties*

IT IS the aftermath of a national emergency . . . Prosperity abounds and real estate values reach new heights . . . Young men in 'plus-fours' go canoeing with their dates to the strumming discords and muted plunk of the ukeleles . . . The latest fad is flag-pole sitting, while women brazenly 'bob' their hair and appear in beaded, knee-length skirts and cloche hats. The slickers and the flappers have mastered the 'Black Bottom' and now they're off to learn how to do the 'Charleston.'

Episode XV. *World War Two*

WE ARE getting close to the present now . . . It is the afternoon of Sunday, December 7, 1941 . . . Suddenly the peace of this Sabbath Day is disrupted by the alarming news of the attack on Pearl Harbor . . . Once again the rumbling sounds of war reach the ears of the surprised nation and the next day we are catapulted into another world turmoil! Once again the boys of Greene County take up the defense of our country . . . We pause here to commemorate both those who made the supreme sacrifice and those living who fought in the cause of world peace . . . To all of those boys of Greene County we pay this solemn, heartfelt tribute.

Episode XVI. *The Beginning of the End*

WITH the arrival of the 1940's there came man's knowledge of splitting the atom . . . And with it came the ingenuity and means to either harness its power for the good or the destruction of the world . . . Since the time when our Second World War was coming to a close and during our latest struggle in Korea, when once again our men of Greene County answered the call, the threat of a new engine of war has dangled over our heads like the sword of Damocles . . . Shall our knowledge of the splitting of the atom be used to insure us a better future or shall it signify the beginning of the end? To bring closer to you its tremendous import, we simulate the explosion of an atomic bomb.

Episode XVII. Finale, *Salute to Greene County's Second Century*

TO THE great history of Iowa, Greene County has contributed one of the most colorful chapters . . . To the great American ideals for which our Iowa stands, she has given of her blood . . . As we review the panorama of our history however, it is not to boast; rather we are humbled that the past has bequeathed to us so rich a heritage, and it is in that spirit that we face forward to meet the challenge of a changing world, striving toward the great principles of Freedom, Peace, and Progress for all the world.

KENDRICK TOWNSHIP . . . From Ox Cart to Airplane

The facts for this article were given to us from biographical sketches and stories handed down from one generation to another from our families that homesteaded and bought Kendrick Township land.

Kendrick Township is located on the west edge of Greene County. This township has a rolling to rough landscape with the Raccoon River winding from the northwest corner to the southeast corner. The Raccoon River has helped to make a lot of history in Kendrick.

The pioneers found their best hunting and fishing places from Indian stories. These good fishing places which were used by the old settlers are still known by sportsmen today.

The settlers of Kendrick Township came in much the same way as other pioneers, by oxen teams and prairie schooner. In the year 1868 the Chicago & North Western railroad was extended from Boone to Council Bluffs. In this year there was a land boom, with the land selling for $25.00 and $30.00 an acre. That was considered quite a price at that time. Later on this same kind of land was bought for $5.00 and $6.00 an acre. Today the same land sells for $300 an acre. During the boom one settler was promised the work of breaking prairie at $4.00 an acre. He bought a team of oxen at Coon Rapids and went to work.

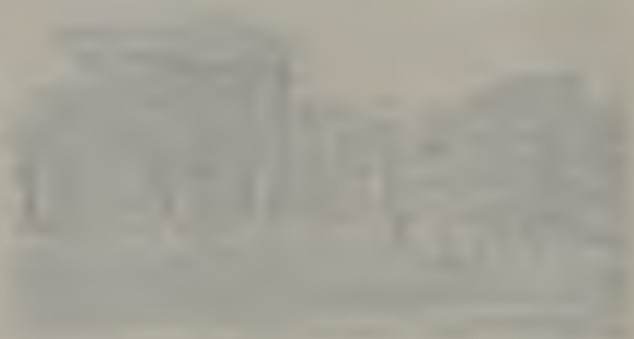
Near the Center School and the Friends Church there were two large farms that are still lived on by the descendants of the settlers, John Garland and Harrison Paup. There are still many other settlers' names in the township such as Anderson, Rosa, Dillovou, Lountzen, and Mass.

Kendrick Township settlers were civic minded. They had two churches in this rural community. They were the Friends and Baptist Churches and they still are very active today. The Friends Church celebrated their fiftieth anniversary a few years ago so they must be nearing sixty years of active religious meetings.

Early schools were held near the fire at home. Later on, the children went to rural schools. Today the rural children ride to school in modern busses going to a modern school, which affords a much better chance for education.

The Lincoln Highway, now United States 30, was built in 1923. The grading and other work was done with horses and small machines. A narrow guage railway was built by the roadside from Scranton to the county line and all material was brought out on that. Cement was mixed on the spot by the roadside. Water was used from the ditches and the rest was piped from Scranton. When all the work was done no one drove on it for thirty days.

We find that our pioneers came from Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, and a few from New York. These brave, strong people started west into a land with only a few white people and miles of waving prairie grass to greet them. We, as the present generation, can never pay the debt that we owe the many pioneers of the early days. To them goes most of the credit for making our county the safe, comfortable place to live in that it is today.



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

of Some of the Early Settlers of Kendrick Township

Mason Linn was born November 26, 1826, in Butler County, Ohio. When he was a babe his parents moved to Indiana where they resided about ten years. In November, 1848, he was married to Miss Rebecca Kyle; they resided in Kankakee County until 1854, when they came to Greene County with ox teams and wagons. At that time there were but six or eight families in the township.

His first residence was a log cabin where hospitality was extended to travelers or to a neighbor of the settlement.

The Reverend Seymour E. Jenks was born September 5, 1818, at Canandaigua, New York. As a child he lived with his parents in Geauga County, Ohio, and also in Cuyahoga County, same state. He was reared a farmer and received a common school education. He was married May 31, 1845, to Miss Elizabeth Ann Carney. Their union was blessed with twelve children. They moved in 1869 to Greene County, locating on Section 24 in Kendrick Township. He was a member of the United Brethren Church; for several years he was a traveling preacher for his denomination.

James Burk, of Kendrick Township, was born in Ireland October 10, 1834. When twelve years old he came with his parents to America, locating in New York. He enlisted in the First Wisconsin Light Artillery August 23, 1861. On December 23, 1864, he re-enlisted and served until the close of the war. He was married to Miss Sarah Eason on March 23, 1871, and came to Kendrick Township, locating near the Garland school house.

D. B. Anderson, one of the pioneers of Greene County, was born in Knox County, Ohio, February 24, 1841. He located in Kendrick Township in 1854, where he was a very prominent farmer. On July 1, 1858, he was married to Miss Eliza Miller, and to this union were born ten children.

During the Civil War he enlisted August 15, 1862, in Company *E*, Thirty-ninth Iowa Infantry, and was in General Sherman's march to the sea. He was honorably discharged June 5, 1865. Mrs. Anderson passed away January 9, 1879, and April 13, 1879, he was married to Mrs. Anna Nesbitt. Three children were born to this union.

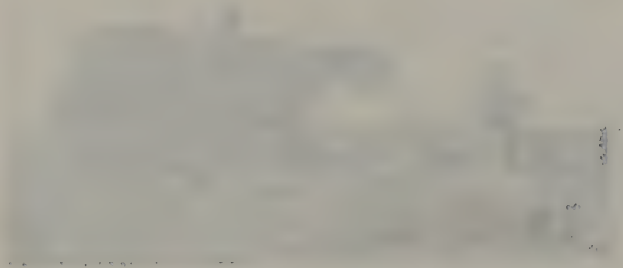
Jake Black was born in Germany in 1840. After coming to America he resided for some time in New York. Leaving the East he made his way westward to Poweshiek County where he was married to Miss Sarah Putnam. After her death in 1862, Mr. Black married Sarah Miller. In 1876 he came to Greene County and settled in Kendrick Township. He purchased a tract of land which he continued to operate until 1901, when he retired from active life.

J. B. Garland, farmer, was born in Boone County, Kentucky, November 25, 1840. When he was a baby his parents moved to Jackson County, Iowa, where he was reared as a farmer and educated in the common school. He engaged in teaching at an early age, having taught in Jackson and Greene Counties.

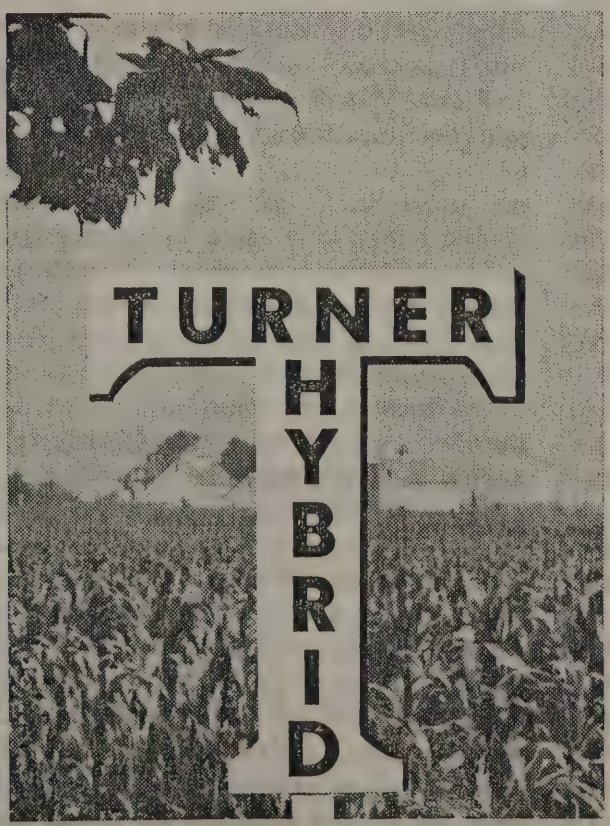
He was married to Miss Emma Hawkins, March 28, 1860.

He came to Kendrick Township in 1869 and purchased eighty acres of wild prairie land where he established his home. The only school house in Kendrick Township is located on the original Garland farm.

Mr. Garland served as a member of the school board, as township assessor, justice of the peace, and also as a member of the board of supervisors.



Friday Club picnic at Dunning Academy, Jefferson, taken about 1885 or 1886



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PATON TOWNSHIP'S RICH HERITAGE

Paton Township is situated in the northeast corner of Greene County and comprises thirty-six sections of land. It originally was wet prairie land with no native timber. Much of the land was covered by water and swamp and for a number of years was used as pasture. A man by the name of McDonald had a corral about the center of the township and had five hundred to a thousand head of cattle under contract from settlers farther south, but as settlers come into the township he moved farther north to Calhoun County.

One of the first settlers in the township was Conrad Smith, who came from Illinois in 1868. He purchased 120 acres in Section 4, which is still in the Smith family. Also among the early settlers was Ruben S. Tallman and his brother, N. C., who bought 160 acres of school land in 1871 and built one of the first residences in its borders. From here on various settlements came quite rapidly. By 1875 the Town of Paton had started. The northeast one-fourth of the township was taken up almost exclusively by Swedish people, some from the States and some direct from Sweden. The oldest living couple of this group is Mr. and Mrs. Gus Berg, who still own the land they purchased in 1876.

The rest of the township was settled by mixed nationalities with probably the Germans predominating. With this beginning and due to the drainage and modern methods of farming, Paton Township has been converted from a once wild prairie to one of the best agricultural townships in the county.

I think it fair to state that it has one of the lowest percentages of waste land in the county, and at present is mostly a grain raising area. While the livestock industry is carried on quite extensively, there is always much grain for shipment out of the county. The ownership of the land has always been quite well distributed, no overly large land holdings, but family type farms have predominated. Although this was once a treeless prairie, at present the landscape is dotted with many fine groves and orchards.

The former school system of a one-room school on four sections of land has been replaced by a consolidated school in the Town of Paton which comprises most of Paton and Dawson Township. It might be well to state that the first school teachers of the township were Arline Curtis and Kate Wise Johnson. The first school outside the Town of Paton was in the southeast part of the township in an upstairs bedroom of the Smith home with the children of three families attending. The first school in Paton was in a private building on what is now Main Street, with Mrs. Kate Wise Johnson as the teacher.

The first church services were held in the home of Andrew Hocke, an Evangelical minister from Grand Junction. Later, Presbyterian and Methodist churches, also German Evangelical and Roman Catholic churches were built in the town. All have good congregations at the present time.

Patric and Mary Ann Conry were the parents of the first white child born in the township. This child was their daughter, Margaret, who became Mrs. Margaret C. Rouse.

Paton Township was the scene of one of the few killings in the county. In the year 1911 a couple of bandits attempted to rob the post office at Paton. They were apprehended and took refuge in a school house in the southwest corner of the township. James Busby, the town marshal of Paton, and Ed Pemble went to the school house to arrest them. As they entered the school house Mr. Busby was shot and killed and Mr. Pemble was shot in the leg quite seriously. Later, the county sheriff, Mr. McBride Wilson, was called and a posse was formed and surrounded the place. After quite a lengthy exchange of fire between the bandits and posse one of the bandits came out and surrendered, but only after he had been severely wounded and feared he would bleed to death. The other bandit fought back until he was killed by a rifle bullet. The injured bandit recovered and was later sent to the penitentiary. This affair was a matter of deep regret and sorrow for the families of Mrs. Busby and Mr. Pemble for the price they had to pay for the protection of property rights for our town and community.

Paton Township has been visited by three tornadoes of a mild type since its organization. The first was about the time of the Grinnell cyclone, another in 1894 when the Catholic church was destroyed and some damage was done to other buildings. The last one was the eighteenth day of May, 1944, when all of the buildings on a farm one mile northwest of town were destroyed and severe damage done to a number of other farmsteads.

With these exceptions Paton Township's history has been one of peaceful progress and it has contributed its fair share to what Greene County is today.

O. McWilliam

After a Hundred Years

THE LAWYERS OF GREENE COUNTY point with pride to the role played by the legal profession in making Greene County what it is today. With the first settlers came the lawyers, who contributed to the county the beginnings of the stable and well organized society we now enjoy.

Down through the Years

The lawyers of Greene County have strived for a system of justice under law. In ever expanding fields, from land transactions and trial work to tax and business consultations, lawyers have continued to champion your property and political rights.

Into Another Century

The lawyers of Greene County look with every confidence that Greene County will continue to prosper and grow. We pledge ourselves to continue for you the legal traditions of this county. Throughout the next century the legal profession will remain dedicated to the goals which have guided us for a hundred years in this county.

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HISTORY OF GRAND JUNCTION

ALTHOUGH the dreams of the founding fathers were never realized in a second Chicago, Grand Junction has grown from a few small buildings in the midst of a swamp to a thriving community of well over one thousand souls.

In the fall of 1868 and the spring of 1869 the Cedar Rapids & Missouri Railroad Company laid a track for a railroad across Iowa. Immediately upon completion the railroad was leased to the Chicago & North Western Railway Company. In the same year the Keokuk, Des Moines & Fort Dodge Railroad (now the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad) was built.

About a mile and one-half west of the junction of the railroads a small settlement known as Hagerstown had sprung up around a brick kiln. Much of the land around the area was swamp land, and it is said that during a wet season fully one-half of it was under water. Even a few years after the railroads had penetrated the area, muskrat houses were as numerous as human habitations.

The owners of the swamp land around the railroad junction thought that it would be a choice spot for a town and immediately began to lay out what they hoped would be the site of a prairie metropolis. "Central Grand Junction" was platted by Hager & Sons and Percival & Hatten of Des Moines to accommodate the dream city, with residence lots which were twenty-two feet wide. Hager & Sons gave twenty acres of land to the Des Moines, Keokuk & Fort Dodge Railroad Company to locate their shops here, so in 1874 the shops were moved to Grand Junction from Keokuk. Howe, division superintendent, and Estabrook, roadmaster, laid out "Grand Junction;" Herron & Kelly of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, laid out "South Grand Junction"; and Seward Smith of Des Moines, "West Grand Junction."

Dr. C. B. Park, an army surgeon, and O. B. Miller imported and sold lumber which was used in the first homes and residences. Among the first buildings erected were the home of Doctor Park, a store by G. C. Hillman, a hardware store by Doctor Park, and a bank and several other buildings by Hager & Sons. As soon as the town was laid out in 1869 the town fathers made an arrangement with Mills & Company, Des Moines, to publish a paper, and the first issue of *The Headlight* came out in January, 1870. S. C. Maynard purchased the paper in 1871 and published it for twenty-seven years. The rapid growth of Grand Junction can be partially attributed to this fine newspaper. In 1870 the census records show that Grand Junction had a population of 444; by 1875 it had increased to 479, one of whom was a colored man. By 1885 the town had more than doubled its 1870 figure. At that time, approximately one-third of the townspeople were dependent upon the railroad shops, so it is little wonder that many people predicted grass would grow in the streets of Grand Junction when the shops were moved to Valley Junction (now West Des Moines) in 1893.

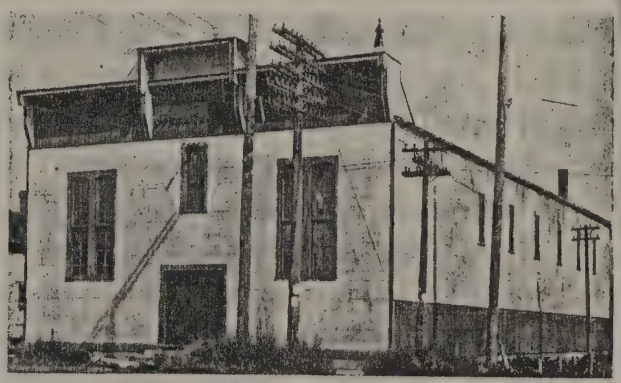
Back in 'the good old days' a band of Indians from the Tama Reservation under the leadership

of their chief, Johnny Greene, would visit Grand Junction on their way to the Raccoon River for a season of hunting and trapping.

One of the early settlers reported that upon her arrival in 1872 many families lived in pleasant rooms over their stores. *The Headlight* in 1878 carried the amazing headline, "Grand Junction's $16,000 Illumination." Sometime during the night a fire broke out and spread rapidly through one part of the business district. Eight business houses were totally destroyed, and only a small part of the contents was saved. Daniel Embree used his hat to extinguish the flames on one roof until he was given something better. One boy escaped from his boarding house with literally nothing more than the shirt on his back. Finally, one building was torn down to prevent the flames from spreading any farther; however, the heat and flames damaged some buildings across the street. While the origin of the fire is unknown, it has been attributed to the carelessness of tramps.

As any town continues to grow and prosper the business district is enlarged and the number of different vocations represented increases. Grand Junction has been no exception, and in looking through the business directory over the years one finds several businesses which, while they were at one time a necessity, appear to the present day citizen to be of an unusual nature or not even represented in 1954. To name only a few, there have been a livery stable, tinsmith, several hotels, marble and granite works, broom maker, shoe maker, plow factory, wagon shop, feather foundry, and an osteopath.

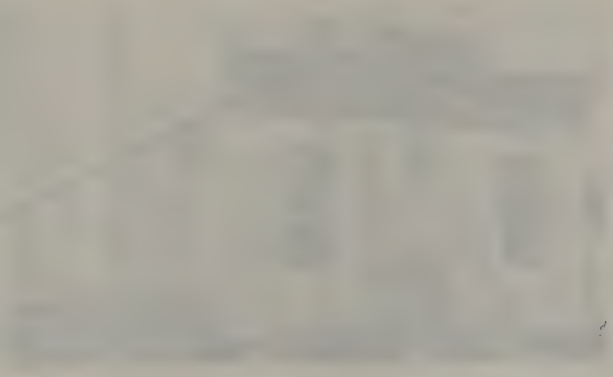
One of the attractions of bygone days was the Nina Hotel, which boasted a spiral staircase winding the full height of all three stories. The banister was an object of delight to the youngsters who would climb to the top floor and slide down the full length. The hotel, with its staircase, was destroyed by fire in 1901, at an estimated loss of $25,000. A Chinese laundry, operated by Heng Lee, stood next to the hotel and was also destroyed in the same fire.



The Harvey Opera House was another imposing building in early Grand Junction. It was the only place between Chicago and here large enough to accommodate troupes going from Chicago to Minneapolis; consequently, many groups of players and opera companies presented performances here. It was used a great deal until it burned in 1915.

In 1878 Lockrey Brothers found coal north of town and sold their rights to John F. Duncombe, of Fort Dodge, who worked the vein for some time. Although the quality of coal was good, the vein was not very thick, varying from twenty to thirty inches, so Mr. Duncombe soon suspended operations and moved his machinery to Angus. A few years later a Citizens Company was formed, a new shaft sunk, and in 1883 this site was leased to Dale, Goodwin & Company, later Goodwin Brick & Tile Company. Under the vein of coal was found a layer of good quality potter's clay eight to nine feet thick. The tile company manufactured tile and fire-brick.

R. P. Brown established a poultry, butter, and



egg packing plant in 1879 in the northeast part of town which was called Browntown, and that name has continued to the present time. This was the largest plant of its kind in the United States. Eggs were preserved for the winter by a process developed by Mr. Brown, and shipped East, some of them going as far as England. Mr. Brown later sold this business to George Nicholson, and it was then known as Nicholson & Company.

O. B. Lofstedt and G. H. Wiltse founded the Modern Construction Company in 1906 for the purpose of manufacturing concrete products, drain tile, culvert pipes, building blocks, and bricks. At one time they made burial vaults known as Lofstone.

The Turner Hybrid Seed Corn Company was organized in 1931 by H. H. Turner. The company breeds, grows, processes, and sells its own hybrid seed corn. The small, original sales territory around Grand Junction has been expanded until today it includes several Midwestern states.

Two of the early settlers, Messrs. Herron and Kelly, donated a block of ground in the south part of Grand Junction for a public park. Several of the local business men and farmers brought in many trees from the Raccoon River and planted them in the park, thereby enhancing its beauty. This park is still very popular with both the local townspeople and travelers seeking shade and comfort.

The desire for fellowship and community service has been expressed from the very beginning through the several fraternal and social organizations. Those societies which were organized at one time but have ceased to exist include the Knights of Pythias, A. O. U. W., L. O. G. T., and Knights of Labor. The H. O. Johnson Post No. 152 of the G. A. R. once boasted a membership of sixty-four. Organizations active at the present time are the Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star, Odd Fellows, Rebekahs, The American Legion, V. F. W., and their auxiliaries; various Boy and Girl Scout groups, and Boys' and Girls' 4-H Clubs. Local business people and farmers are well represented in the Lions Club and Business Women's Club. Several Federated Women's Clubs have also been organized in Grand Junction and are very active in the community.

The Town of Grand Junction was incorporated in 1873 with S. A. Eckerson as mayor. A volunteer fire department provides the necessary fire protection. An iron triangle was first used as the fire alarm, but it was later replaced by a fire bell, and that has been followed by a modern fire siren. The streets were lighted first by kerosene, then gasoline, and finally by electricity. The municipal light plant, which currently provides electricity, was built in 1932. In 1948 White Way street lights were installed on Main Street. A city water system was installed in 1920 and a sewerage system in 1940. The Lincoln Highway, "the Main Street of the Nation," is also the Main Street of Grand Junction.

Battery *D*, 185th Field Artillery of the National Guard, was organized in 1924 and continued as an active unit until inducted into active duty at the beginning of World War II. The Junction Mutual Telephone Company was organized in 1906, and a dial system was installed

in 1953–1954, serving both the Grand Junction and Dana communities.

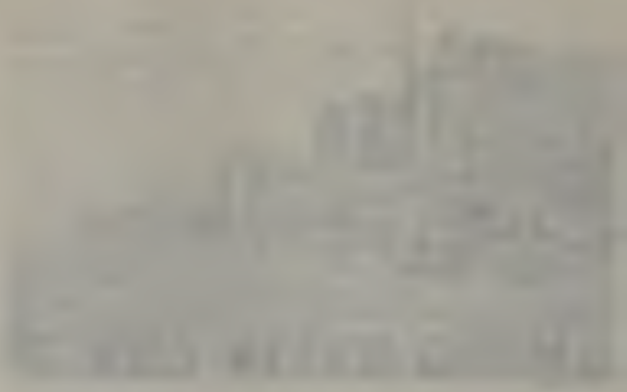
In 1870 a two-story brick school house was constructed at a cost of $7,000 on a half block of ground given by the Hagers. The first floor, consisting of two rooms, separated by a wide entrance hall, was used for school purposes. The second floor was a hall used for church services, a union Sunday school, dances, and community activities. In 1883 an addition consisting of two rooms was built to accommodate the ever increasing number of students. The first commencement exercises for five students, were held in 1885. A new $45,000 building was erected in 1915. In 1939 the present gymnasium was added, and a $155,000 bond issue was approved by the community in 1953 for extensive additions and enlargements now in the course of construction. Wise leadership through the years has provided an ever increasing and interesting curriculum to meet the challenge of the changing times.

The first sermon preached in Grand Junction was delivered from a box car while a few ministers were waiting here to change trains. The Rev. Joseph Manning, of Jefferson, organized the Methodist Church in 1868, and the first building was erected in 1875 on a plot of ground given by the Hagers. The Presbyterian Church held an organizational meeting in 1870 and was formally incorporated two years following. Their church building was dedicated in 1876. Saint Brigid's Roman Catholic Church became a parish in 1873. The parish originally included all of Greene County and parts of Boone and Calhoun Counties. The date when the first church was built is not known, but the second church was built in the early 1880's. Saint Mary's Academy was established in 1888 under the direction of the resident priest with four sisters assisting him. The Baptist Church was organized in 1878, and a permanent home was built for them in 1881. The Rev. George Zellhoefer organized the Ebenezer Church of the Evangelical Association in 1874 in Browntown. All of the services were conducted in German. This church has since been disbanded. Each summer the Protestant churches conduct a Union Daily Vacation Church School.

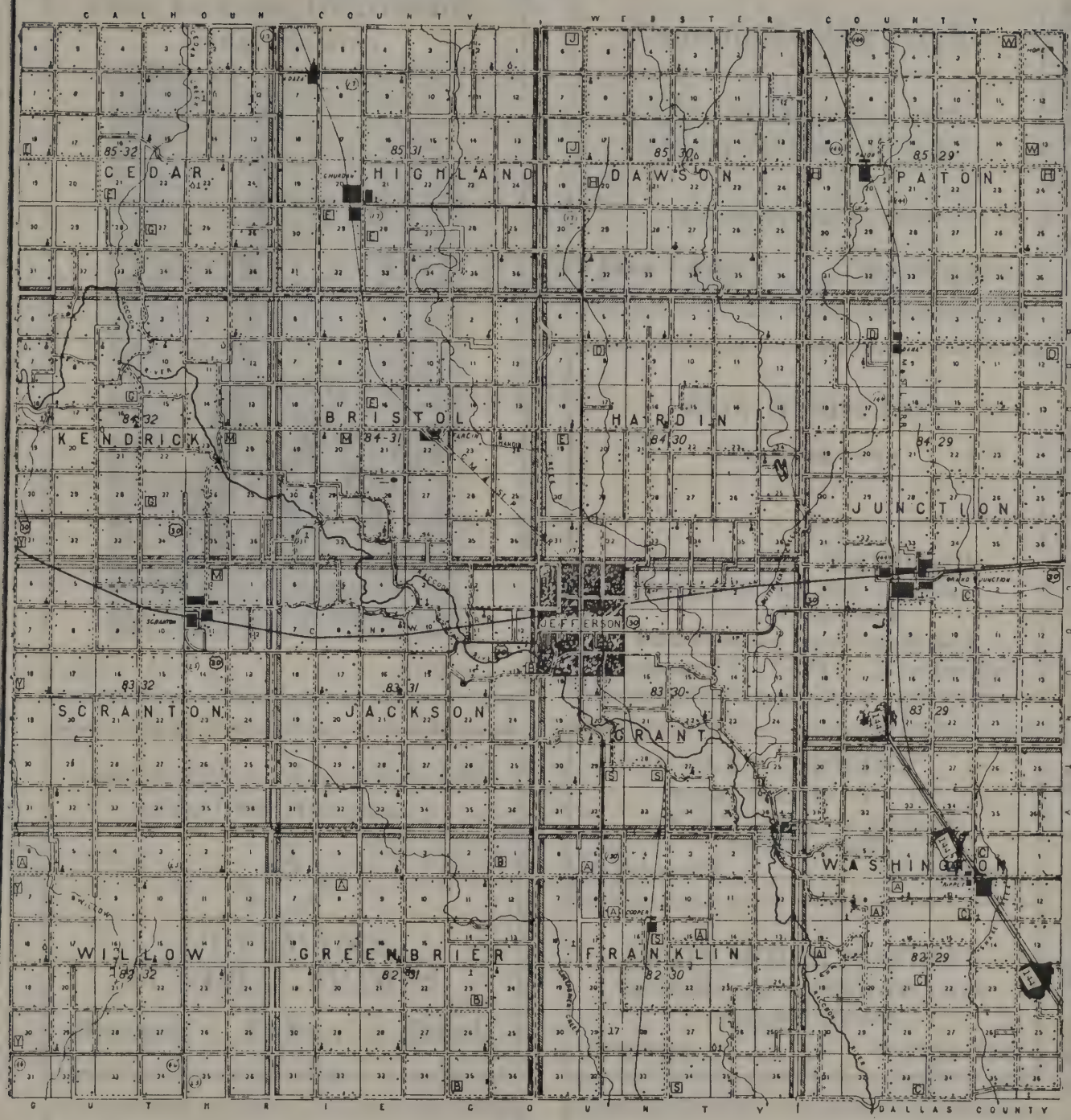
The first cemetery was located northwest of town because that was the only spot dry enough. Later the bodies were moved to the present cemetery west of town. Greene County's first undertaker was Lewis Coon, who located in Grand Junction, but maintained business relations throughout the county.

A few years ago state-wide attention was focused on Grand Junction. Two signs, side by side, greeted people at the east edge of town. "The Town of 1,027 Friendly People" was flanked by "Grand Junction, Population 1,028." Now the signs are gone, and the population has increased. All 1,036 people *are* friendly.

JACK WATTS



GREENE COUNTY, IOWA



Congratulations to Greene County
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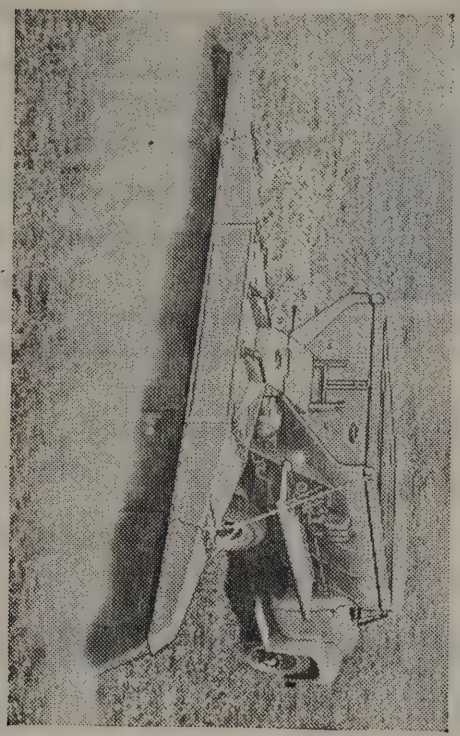

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Those Good Old Days in SCRANTON AND SCRANTON TOWNSHIP

SCRANTON owes its existence to the Cedar Rapids & Missouri Railroad (now the Chicago & North Western) which completed its line through Greene County in 1866. In 1868 a station was built at the site and in 1869 the town was platted by the Blair Town Lot Company and was named Scranton after a Mr. Scranton, of Scranton, Pennsylvania, who was interested in the roller mills which supplied most of the iron rails used in constructing the railroad. The first lot was sold to Charles H. Dowd, January 31, 1870, and he and H. C. Smith built a store. R. P. and D. R. Amsden built a dwelling and soon afterwards a lumber yard was started by C. J. Quinn and D. J. Sheldon.

The first freight arirved at the station in 1868. A post office was established that year also. In 1870 a boarding house and hotel, a blacksmith shop, and a school house were built. Dr. James Presnell was the first doctor to settle in the community where he practiced until his death in 1883. His son, J. W. Presnell, a graduate of Iowa University Medical School, started a practice in Scranton in 1895, which he maintained until his retirement.

By June, 1885, the population was 234. Ten years later the census gave the number as 714. By 1905 there were about 900 living in Scranton.

As stated above, a hotel was one of the first buildings erected and while travelers came and went by train it was one of the busiest and most prosperous businesses in town. Salesmen would arrive at the hotel with large trunks of samples which would be displayed in a room known as the 'Sample Room.' The town merchants would come to this room to select the materials and articles which they wished to order.

The general merchandise stores were small department stores. There would be a dry goods counter where cotton, wool, and silk yard goods were sold, linen for tablecloths, and muslin for sheets. Housewives could buy very few articles ready made and it was necessary to do their own sewing, and sometimes they hired a seamstress to come to the home for two or three weeks and outfit the family for the season.

At the front of the store there was usually a candy counter; toward the back there were groceries and meats, and in one corner a small stock of shoes.

Drug, hardware, and millinery stores were separate establishments. In the latter, hat forms and trimmings were purchased separately and assembled by a professional trimmer, often for the individual customer.

The first church in Scranton was the United Brethren, but Roman Catholic, Methodist, and Christian Church congregations were organized in the early years and were an important part of the life of the community. The Protestant churches conducted two religious services each Sunday—morning and evening, besides the Sunday school and a Wednesday evening prayer meeting. Occasionally revival meetings would be held in one of the churches with an evangelist preaching every night over a period of two weeks or more and the Sunday schools each presented elaborate programs at Christmas, Easter, and on Children's Day.

In 1883 the town bought its first hose cart. Volunteer firemen supplied the power to move the cart to the fire, but in the early part of 1884 the equipment proved inadequate to extinguish a fire which destroyed the hotel, a furniture store, drug store, and two empty buildings. A few years later the Cressler elevator burned and in 1901 a disastrous fire swept through a large part of the business district destroying twenty-one buildings. Rebuilding began at once after each fire, brick buildings replacing the wooden structures.

The first postmaster, M. O. Robertson, carried letters in his pocket delivering them as he met the addressees on the street. Farmers, whose mail came to the office, would call for it when in town, usually taking that of several neighbors as well. Rural delivery was not started until about 1903.

The first school, which was built about a year after the town was started, soon was replaced by a four-room building which, with the addition of two rooms, served Scranton Township until the present school house was built about 1913. Graduation classes were small and for many years each member wrote an oration and delivered it at the graduation exercises which were held in the opera house.

Entertainment came to the community for the most part. Traveling companies of actors arrived in town and presented a different play each evening for a week. Some brought their own tent and seating equipment, others rented the opera house. For a number of years *Uncle Tom's Cabin* would arrive annually. A lecture course brought a series of musical programs and speakers each winter, and there were usually home talent plays and school operettas. In the summer the local band gave weekly concerts, there was a local celebration on July 4th, an Illinois Picnic (many of the early settlers were from that state), and many family picnics.

For the farmers, beginning with the early spring, work began at sun-up and it was after dark when the last chores were finished. Farm wives often quoted the couplet, "Man works from sun to sun but woman's work is never done." When one realizes that most farm women did all their own baking, churned butter, usually did most of the gardening, gathered the vegetables and fruits, and cooked for a succession of hay, harvest, and threshing crews, found time somewhere to can, make pickles, and dry bushels of farm products, it is easy to see there must have been some truth in the short rhyme.

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HARDWARE : APPLIANCES
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Bottled Gas Service

Telephone: 258 **Scranton, Iowa**

RIPPEY AND WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP—Our First Century

Rippey, with a population of 500, was founded in 1870 by William H. Cartwright, receiving its name from the pioneer village of Old Rippey, three and one-half miles to the southwest on the old Des Moines and Sioux City State Road. It is surrounded by some of the best farming country in the state. In fact one prankster named it, "The Hub of the Universe." The first building was the post office. C. H. Suydam opened the first general store, also built the first home. Captain Wells was the first railroad and express agent for the Des Moines Valley Railroad. He was also postmaster for ten years; he bought hogs too, and for all this work received $40.00 a month. Hogs sold for $2.25 a 100 pounds, butter five cents, eggs three cents a dozen, good cows $18.00 to $20.00 a head, and fat cattle two and one-half to three cents a pound. Hired men received $10.00 a month and hired girls $2.00 to $2.50 a week—wages our young detasselers would shun today.

B. F. Osborn opened the first drug store in 1878; down through the years he was probably considered Rippey's leading citizen.

Some of the earliest dwellings were moved from nearby Angus, a thrifty mining town a few years back that was fast becoming a ghost town. Some of these homes are still intact.

The high school, established in 1892, was a two-story frame structure housing the pupils in four rooms, three grades each. We received our education by books alone, were never taught to toss a basketball or toot a horn. Pupils from the country carried their dinner, walked or drove a horse and buggy which they kept at the livery stable. At the end of that first year two pupils were graduated. This year, 1954, nineteen were graduated from Rippey Consolidated School, which was established in 1921 at a cost of $160,000. Five busses reach out in a radius of ten miles, carrying pupils to Rippey School with an enrollment of 265. Hot lunches are provided and besides their regular studies they have a fine band, basketball and baseball teams.

We boasted of four churches at one time within a block of one another, the Methodist, Christian, Baptist, and Presbyterian. There are now two churches: the Methodist and Christian.

For many years we had passenger service, six trains a day, three each way, on the Milwaukee & St. Louis Railroad. An everyday pastime was to watch the noon train come in.

The band played Saturday nights and we drove our horses and buggies into town to listen and to do our trading. We were not germ conscious in those days for everyone drank from a rusty tin cup hanging on 'The Old Town Pump.' In the early 1900's however, the water tower was erected, making running water available. Also about that time George Rittgers purchased the first automobile: an Invincible Schacht, friction drive, solid rubber tires, high wheels; and scared all the horses on the road.

Now the fine Rippey High School band furnishes music on a different night and streamlined cars jam the streets.

To the coal mines south of Rippey men came with horses and wagons, as far as fifteen or twenty miles, for fuel, waiting their turn to load, which sometimes took two or three days.

We celebrated the Fourth of July and the Old Settlers' Picnic, and of course the County Fair—we got a quarter to spend and were told to make it last! October, 1910, we held the first three-day Rippey Farm Festival. It was a big success; people came from all the neighboring towns to take part in the big parade and to help us celebrate. This turned out to be a fall tradition.

The town always had a good doctor, sometimes two, and until recent years a good dentist.

After the first World War, B. F. Osborn gave a plot of ground for a park, honoring each of our soldiers by planting a tree.

We always had a baseball team, for which everyone was a booster, the diamond being close by in some pasture. In 1939 a new park was dedicated in the west part of town. In 1949, 109 shares were sold at $25.00 each and on May 23, 1949, the first lights were turned on. Now we can watch our team try to win their games at night.

The Rippey Savings and First National Banks were among the very first to be released after the 'bankers' holiday.'

And now on this Centennial eve let us turn on the lights, turn off the heat, or turn a water faucet, and drive our streamlined cars, and wonder what the next 100 years may bring. For more detail and correct data I refer you to the Centennial paper being circulated from the *Bee and Herald* office, sometime in October.

Mrs. M. A. Pett

History of First National Bank, Rippey, Iowa—*Greene County's Oldest Bank*

AFTER RETURNING from the Civil War, Charles Suydam came West and started a general store in Rippey, Iowa. More and more settlers came to Greene County and this community, and as the population increased, so did the needs of the community.

Mr. Suydam was a highly respected and trusted man in the community. He had a safe in his store for his own use. His friends and customers knew of this safe and as a result of having the respect of the community and the fireproof, and supposedly burglar-proof safe, people began to bring their money to Mr. Suydam to keep for them. The need of a bank was evident so in 1882 the private bank known as the Bank of Rippey was started by Charles Suydam. This bank was started in a frame building that was located directly east of Wesley Rittgers's home (formerly owned by Mr. Suydam). This building has since been moved and is now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hibbert and used far a dwelling. The bank was operated by Mr. Suydam until 1898 when it was purchased by A. P. Gilliland and William Davis.

Wesley Johnson also started a bank in the back of his hardware store about the year 1888. This bank was located where Edwin Thornburg has a restaurant. Later, Mr. Johnson built the building now occupied by Wesley Rittgers and moved the bank down there. William Davis married the daughter of Wesley Johnson and then he went one step further and bought out the Wesley Johnson bank (known as the Commercial Bank) about 1900. In 1902 Gilliland and Davis sold out to W. H. McCammon and J. M. Woodwarth, of Perry, Iowa. In the fall of 1904 Mr. J. H. Van Scoy came to Rippey as cashier of the Bank of Rippey and he was instructed to organize a national bank and this bank was to take over the assets of the Bank of Rippey and that of the Commercial Bank. The First National Bank was chartered and opened for business on February 7, 1905, and continuously since then this bank has been open and has been a national bank and subject to government regulations and supervision.

The first directors of the National Bank were W. H. McCammon, J. M. Woodwarth, A. P. Gilliland, J. H. Van Scoy, and Allen Mace. The officers were W. H. McCammon, president; J. M. Woodwarth, vice-president; J. H. Van Scoy, cashier; and John Haberer, assistant cashier. W. H. McCammon served as president until his death. On January 29, 1929, Alex High was elected president. The directors at that time were Alex High, Owen Gilliland, B. M. Riley, I. J. Burk, and J. H. Van Scoy. B. M. Riley came on the board in January, 1919, and has served as president continuously since March 11, 1931. I. J. Burk came on the board May 5, 1926, and served continuously as director until August, 1944, which was shortly before his death. J. H. Van Scoy served as cashier continuously until his death in July, 1944. Mr. Van Scoy rendered a great service to the community—he was well liked and proved his ability as a banker. At his death Clark Bardole was elected to take over his duties as cashier and has served in that capacity until the present time. The present officers are B. M. Riley, president; Claus Loof, vice-president; Clark Bardole, cashier; John Gartsee, assistant cashier (now on sick leave); Marvin Hiddleson, assistant cashier (now on leave of absence in the armed services); Maybelle Wisecup, teller; and Claudette Roberts, bookkeeper.

The loyalty and support of the people of this community from the time of its first organization in 1882 until 1954 has made possible the progress of this bank and to them goes much of the credit.

CLARK BARDOLE, *Cashier*

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RIPPEY, IOWA

The only year-around weekly machinery auction held in the United States.

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O. R. AND H. S. STEVENS
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Sale Every Monday **Tel. 4 on 94 or 39**

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We are proud to have been a part of Rippey and Greene County for 73 of Greene County's 100 years.

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Growing with Greene County for 50 Years

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DWIGHT M. CRUMLEY, *Executive Vice-President*	H. G. KUPFER
HUGO A. NORGREN, *Cashier*	T. P. GANNON
WALTER K. ANDERSON, *Assistant Cashier*	D. M. CRUMLEY
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Meals : Meadow Gold Ice Cream

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GRAND JUNCTION, IOWA

HISTORY OF WILLOW TOWNSHIP

"My farm to me, is not just land
Where bare, unpainted buildings stand.
To me, my farm is nothing less
Than all created loveliness."

So THOUGHT the early settlers of Willow Township—and so think their descendants of today, many of whom still live on the broad acres their fathers broke from prairie sod. But today, as one drives across this beautiful rural township and finds surfaced roads, modern farms, power machinery, homes completely electrified, it seems a far cry from the days of mule and ox teams, walking plows, and binding grain by hand.

Willow was so named in 1874, when the township was organized; named for the meandering creek which divides the township and the many willow trees which grow along its banks, before it empties into the Middle Raccoon. It is the southwest township of the county, bordered by Carroll County on the west and Guthrie on the south. Having no village within its borders it is served by Bayard, Coon Rapids, and Scranton. The only church is the German Lutheran, established about 1890, and still functioning, being lately completely rebuilt and modernized. The Rev. Mr. Stock is the present pastor. Among its earliest parishioners were the William Hilgenberg, Charles Hackmeister, Valentine Arntz, and Warren Calder families.

To the eastern side of the township in 1872 came the John Stevenson family and Mrs. Mary Stevenson Cain, now a resident of Jefferson, was the first child born in Willow Township. Her father and also her sister, Margaret, held offices in the Greene County Court House for many years. The John and Dennis Martin families were also early arrivals and Dennis Martin's daughter, Mrs. Lil Vanderloo, of Coon Rapids, still owns and operates the farm her father settled on. Other early settlers include the Dan Howe, Mike Caraher, William Longman, Mike O'Neil, Charles Regan, John Duffy, Mike Murrane, and other Irish-American families, many of whom still own the farms on which they were born in the seventies and eighties. Farther north were the Jim Pangborn and Adamson families and Thomas Jacques, who is reputed to have built the first frame house in the township; Tom Davis, Robert Cain, Strouds, Robert Moyles, the Frankhousers, the Steers, Charles Rogan, Alf Jones, and in the eighties the Parker family and James O'Brien.

The children of that early day called the land northeast toward Jefferson, "The Great Prairie," and near home gathered wild strawberries and chewed gum from the gum weeds in the hay fields. Amusements were simple: box socials, school picnics, ball playing and wrestling for the boys, and an occasional house dance took up what little time they had for social activities.

The Roman Catholics held Mass in the Charles Regan home and in Willow Number 8 School, with a priest from Carroll usually officiating, and the Protestant denominations held services in the same school house for many years.

Many of Greene County's finest young ladies taught in the Willow schools, among them Rose McGivney Cannon, now of Des Moines; Elizabeth Sammon Finnegan and Dolly Pangborn Jack, both of Jefferson; Katie Butler, Mary Mosely, Katie Potts, Nell Burkhalter, Rosalie Haskell, Margaret Noonan Horan, Nora Hardman, and Mary Waters. Needless to say, it is in no small measure due to the strict efforts of these early educators that we find so evident today that sterling integrity and rugged honesty that is so characteristic of these Willow pioneers and their descendants.

This is not a complete history of Willow Township but the men and women who built it were the salt of the earth, who knew not of atom bombs, McCarthy Hearings, weed exterminators, movies, television, nor jet bombers, but put their shoulders to the wheel, with good hard work, plain food, and righteous living.

Women came eight to ten miles to use their neighbors' sewing machines which were few and far between. Meat was home killed and cured in one's own smoke house or 'fired down,' and every farmer raised a wagon load of potatoes instead of buying them by the ten-pound bag.

So "Westward the course of empire takes its way" and in some far Western and Northern states there are still pioneers who have no television, lockers, air conditioning, and many other things that are as common to Willow Township now as nuts are to squirrels or honey to bees.

What will the next century bring to this lovely township?

MRS. T. J. O'BRIEN

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Below:
A former teacher of No. 5, Katie Butler

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JEFFERSON, IOWA

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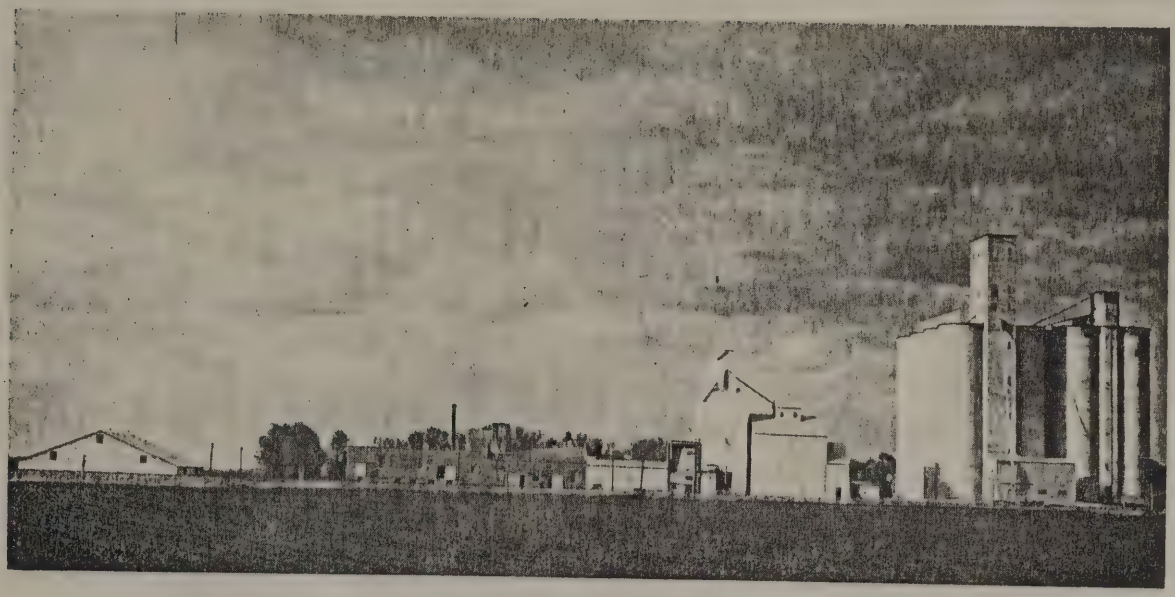

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